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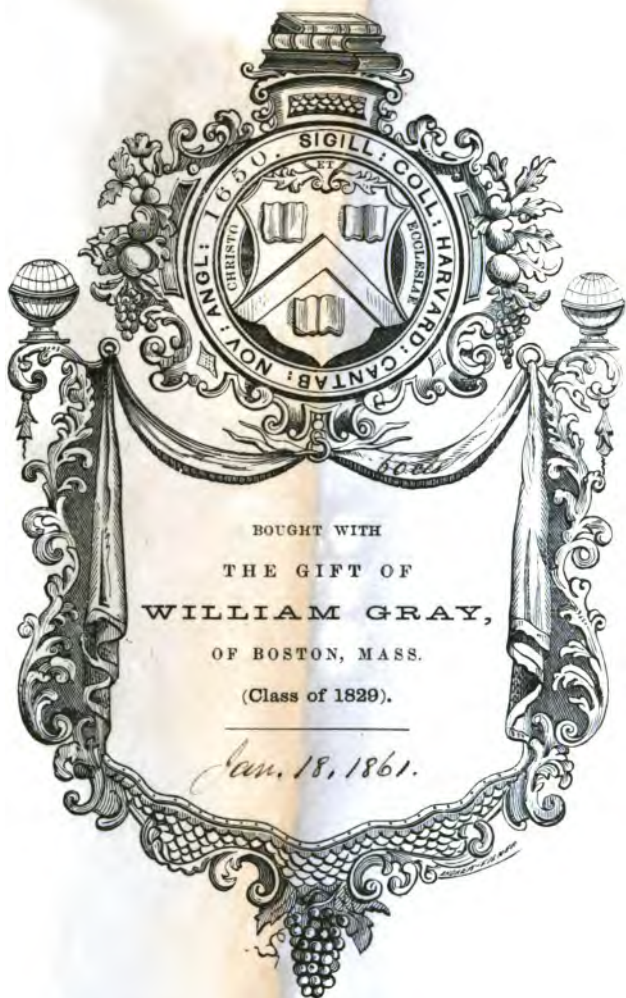
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**JOURNAL**  
OF  
**V O Y A G E S**  
TO  
**Margaritta, Trinidad, & Maturin,**  
WITH  
*THE AUTHOR'S TRAVELS ACROSS THE PLAINS OF THE*  
*LLANEROS, TO ANGUSTURA,*  
AND  
SUBSEQUENT DESCENT OF THE ORINOCO,  
IN THE YEARS  
**1819 & 1820;**  
COMPRISING HIS SEVERAL INTERVIEWS WITH  
**BOLIVAR,**  
*THE SUPREME CHIEF:*  
SKETCHES OF THE VARIOUS NATIVE AND EUROPEAN GENERALS:

*And a variety of characteristic Anecdotes,*

HITHERTO UNPUBLISHED.

*William Jackson*  
BY CAPTAIN W. J. ADAM, S. A. S.

*&* **Dublin:**

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TO

**WILLIAM PLUNKETT, ESQ.**

COMMISSIONER OF EXCISE,

&c. &c. &c.

*The following Journal is respectfully dedicated;*

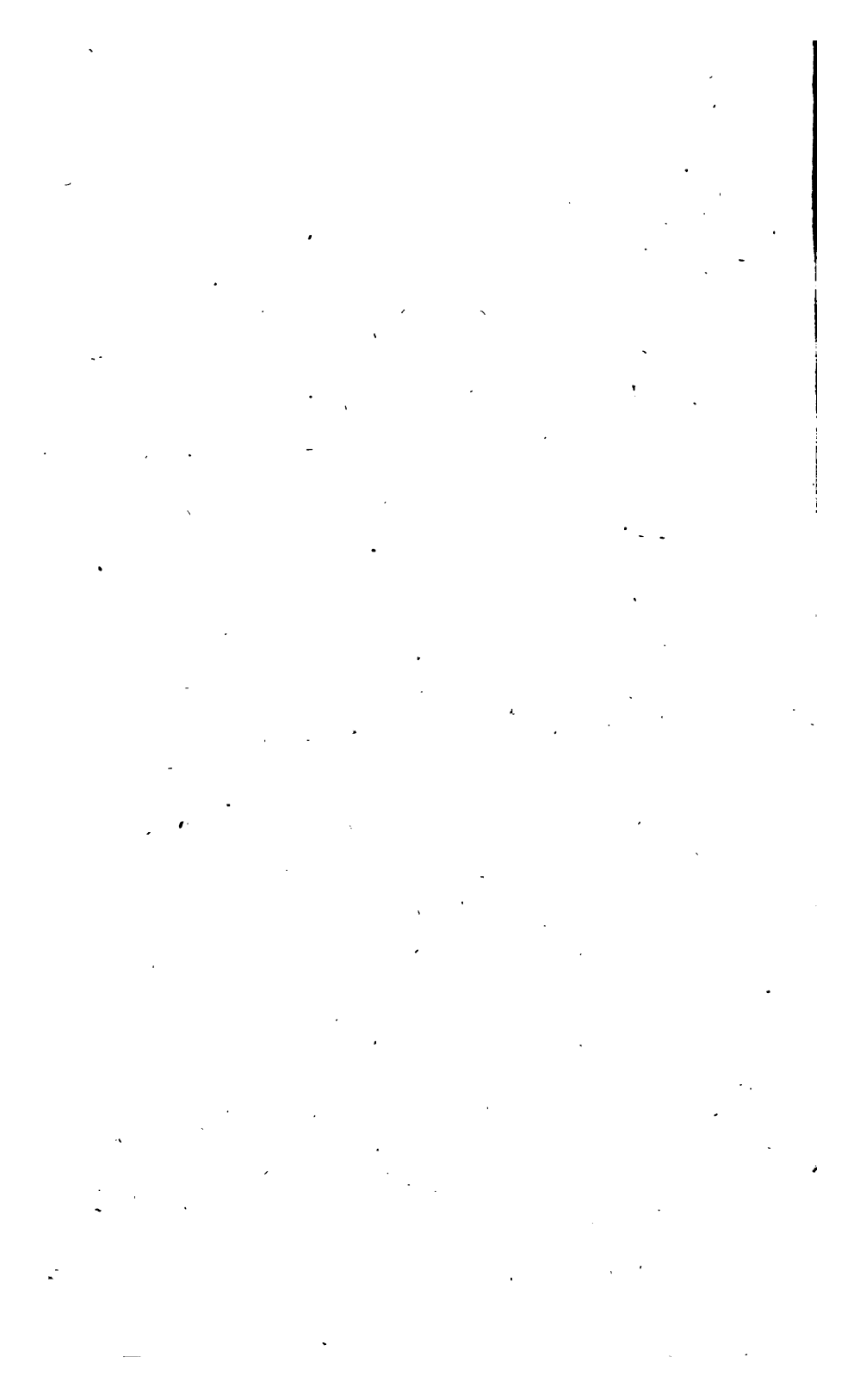
NOT MORE ON ACCOUNT OF HIS TALENTS AND GREATNESS OF  
MIND, THAN AS A SMALL TRIBUTE OF ESTEEM, FOR  
INNUMERABLE FAMILY OBLIGATIONS;

BY HIS

OBEDIENT SERVANT,

**WILLIAM JACKSON ADAM.**

DUBLIN, JAN. 1, 1824.





## Preface.

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A CONSIDERABLE time has now elapsed since General DEVEREUX first landed in Ireland, for the purpose of raising an Irish Legion to aid the South Americans in throwing off the Spanish yoke, and proclaiming their independence. Numerous individuals, whether from a love of honor, or as a mere matter of speculative interest, enrolled themselves around the standard of liberty; and not a few, nay the greater number of those feather-bed soldiers, who sought to arrive at the summit of honor and fortune, without any of the difficulties which necessarily accompany such a warfare, finding the path difficult and arduous, returned, amid hardship and beggary, to their native soil; without being able, duly to appreciate those exertions, or compass those rewards which were in store for the persevering. Many reports have, of course, been circulated by those *heroes*, by which their desertion from the cause of liberty might be rendered plausible and praiseworthy—reports which have not only tended to bring disgrace upon the promulgators of *their disgrace*, but to bring into discredit that noble cause in which, on the first going off, they were so eager; but the difficulties and dangers of which they had not sufficient courage to withstand. I am not, nor do I wish to be, the advocate of any man or set of men, by whom they may have conceived themselves to be hoodwinked or cozened; nor do I, in the slightest possible degree, wish to arraign the motives by which any person was induced to desert the South American banner, or deprecate the measures of those to whom they had entrusted the first fruits of

their honorable career—far be it from me; I speak of what I know, and testify that I have seen: I have shared in their sufferings, and returned unrewarded—but of the causes which led to my return, *they* will appear in the course of my Journal. A plain and simple narrative of the events to which I was an eye and ear-witness, is all that I pretend to; and whether labouring under mental or bodily agony, or enjoying the progress of liberty, under the command of the indefatigable Bolivar, each event shall be faithfully recorded. Attached to no party, I am not the advocate of any, and shall, therefore, confine myself to those facts which I have witnessed, and which, it is almost unnecessary for me to say, will be fully vouched for by the united testimonies of such as have persevered in the cause, in which they embarked, and from which they are, in all likelihood, about to reap a golden harvest.

It may be asked by some—why the publication of my Journal has been so long delayed? To this I answer—that upon my return from Columbia, party spirit, at least so far as the South American cause was concerned, ran amazingly high; and a prodigious portion of unfounded abuse and calumny was poured forth against General Devereux, by those who had returned from Margaritta; I then, through the medium of the public press, exerted my feeble efforts, to stem the torrent of invective, and disabuse the public feeling, as to the powers of the General; and, *from my own knowledge*, speak of the authority with which he was invested by Bolivar. The Journal, which I had constantly kept, was not sufficiently detailed to refute the various and unfounded calumnies which, at that period, were superabundant: its publication was, therefore, delayed, until the smoothing hand of time had levelled the asperities which misfortune had raised; or, until some one, who had equal opportunities, and greater competency, would undertake the task. I also feel, even at this distant period, that I have a sacred duty to perform to the relatives of some of my comrades, who, less fortunate than myself, have sunk under the accumulated miseries of fatigue, want, and their concomitant attendant, disease:—Miseries which are inseparable from a warfare similar to that

on the South American continent, and to which every adventurer, with the smallest share of penetration, must have looked forward, as the precursors of those advantages and honors, to which he aimed, as the reward of his toil. If, in pursuance of my object, I shall remove one blot from the character of the praiseworthy patriot, or satisfactorily detail the fate of an unfortunate companion, whose body rests on a distant sod, but whose memory still lives in the bosom of his friends, the ends I have in view, in the publication of my Journal, will be fully attained.

W. J. A.

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## JOURNAL, &c.

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IN the month of July, 1819, I became attached to the 2d Division of the Regiment of Lancers, which General DEVEREUX was raising in Ireland, in support of South American independence; and immediately afterwards sailed from *Dublin*, on board the *Hannah*, under the command of Colonel *Aylmer*. This division consisted of 75 officers, and about a similar number of non-commissioned officers and privates; the officers, for the most part, were young and inexperienced, which was the cause of considerable discord and dispute upon the passage outwards. The ship's stores were not only scanty in quantity, but of a very inferior quality: the only allowance, for men and officers, being Rice or Oatmeal Porridge and Molasses for Breakfast, and Pork or bad Beef and Black Biscuit for Dinner, with an allowance of *two quarts* of water per diem each,

a privation which was the more acutely felt as we approached the torrid zone: During the early part of our voyage the bad quality of the provisions was in some degree unknown to the officers, as each had provided himself with a private store, which, however, was soon exhausted.

Light breezes, throughout which a small boat might have ridden in safety, gradually wafted us to our destined port, while the time passed in uninteresting tranquillity, save when disturbed by the quarreling of my youthful companions, or less savage amusements of Shark and Dolphin Fishing, which we exercised to satiety. About 5 o'clock in the morning of the 24th of September, a cry of "Land, Land," from an officer on the quarter deck, made us, one and all, shake off our slumbers, and hasten to gaze upon the gladsome sight; a short time soon convinced us of its reality. A light breeze having sprung up, about 1 o'clock we were off the island of *Tobago*, presenting to our view as we passed, in a southerly direction, a rich, elevated country, agreeably diversified with cottages, villages, plantations, and extensive tracks of fertile, well cultivated soil. Passing *Tobago*, a few hours brought us within view of *Trinidad*, bold and majestic as it rose from the ocean; such was our distance, that the outline was only perceptible, and we were unable to discern any thing of the actual appearance of the island. The sight of land, however, of any description, gave a new impetus to our spirits,

which were previously and gradually becoming depressed ; and thus elevated with the hopes of speedily making our destination, we saw with unusual pleasure the clouds of night close around us.

September 25th — Another of those duels with which my companions (inexperienced as they were in the art of war,) sought to arrange the trivial differences, almost inseparable from the novel situation in which they were placed, and fired, as were their youthful breasts, with the glories which, in idea, they had already achieved, in freeing a noble race of men from the dominion of their ancient taskmasters, roused me at an earlier hour than usual, from my slumbers. The interference of the Captain, for a time put a stop to it ; and the sight of *Marguaritta*, with which we were soon gratified, put an end to every difference. Upon the first sight of this long-looked-for spot, a murmur of joy was, by the whole crew, mingled with the breeze ; even an unfortunate comrade, who had been wounded in a former rencontre, was carried upon deck, and amid the general exultation with which we beheld this “ land of promise,” forgot the pains and infirmities under which he laboured. The island appeared high and woody, but upon a nearer approach, what to our distant vision, we had conceived as the flourishing growth of the soil, we found to be nothing more than groups of prickly Bars, scorched by the rays of a meridian sun. About 6 o'clock in the evening, the Captain considering it unsafe to

to proceed farther along a coast, with whose nature he was ignorant, cast anchor in 13 fathoms water, within a few furlongs of the shore, which seemed gloomy and formidably bold. A solitary light, like the glimmering of a midnight taper, was the only visible appearance of its being inhabited; and the three signal guns with which we announced our arrival, were alone answered by the respondent shouts of our joyous crew.

26th.—At day-light this morning we weighed anchor, and the wind blowing fresh, we crowded sail and passed along the shores of Margaritta: a number of small canoes laden with natives, were the first human beings we had yet seen; but such their timidity, that no persuasion could induce them to come alongside. About ten o'clock A. M. a small schooner issued out of a bay at some distance, and bearing down upon us, approached cautiously, as if observing who and what we were, she lowered a boat, containing one white man, in white jacket and trousers, and half a dozen savages almost naked. The Pilot (for so the white man was afterwards found to be) as he came alongside, cried out "keep from the land, my boys" and immediately jumped on board. From this fellow we heard of the safe arrival of our first division, the entire of Colonel MEADE'S Regiment, and the Patriot Squadron commanded by Admiral BROWN, which was then lying at anchor in a bay at some distance to the southward. The orders of the Admiral were,



that Colonel AYLMER should immediately proceed to shore in the schooner's boat; which he hastened to do, accompanied by an interpreter. As the schooner, with our commander on board, passed our Larboard bow, her crew gave three cheers, which we returned, anxiously awaiting the result of an interview, in which those prospects, for which we had left our native land, were so nearly and dearly concerned.

The landing of our Colonel upon the island was announced by a salute of Artillery from the neighbouring Forts; in the mean time, we, entering the bay of *Juan Griego*, cast anchor in the midst of the Patriot Squadron. The harbour of *Juan Griego* is excellent, and protected upon each side by a fortification; that on the right, as you enter, was built by the women of the island. Fronting the town we perceived a species of bulwark, which had been hastily thrown up by our 1st Division, when they were in momentary dread of an attack from a Spanish Squadron which had blockaded the island, for some time, and had only taken its departure from the coast the day previous to our arrival: our surprize and joy may be easily conceived when we found that those vessels, we had seen the previous day, were part of the enemies' ships, and from which our escape seemed miraculous. The Patriot Navy, which now surrounded us, consisted of *eight* Gun-brigs, of 14 guns each, *ten* Schooners of 10 guns each, with a number of smaller Fleets-

eras, Gunboats, &c. &c. The Flag Ship, *La Grande Victorie*, was sunk in the Bay, and nearly covered with water. This small fleet, commanded by Admiral BRION, seemed in excellent order, well rigged and trimmed, and, as we afterwards had reason to believe, still better manned than either.

The joy which so universally pervaded our little band, upon reaching the wished-for port, and the rapture with which we received a number of our fellow adventurers, of the 1st division, who had hastened on board to greet our arrival, was soon changed to mourning, at the recital of those scenes of want, sickness and indescribable misery, under which they had existed, and were still suffering, and of which we were so soon to become partakers.

27th—Orders having arrived onboard, from Admiral BRION, to land the troops, I was among the first who took their places in the pinnace, and after half an hour's "tugging at the oar," by a parcel of lazy negroes, I first trod the inhospitable shores of *Marguaritta*, where I experienced a kind and hearty welcome from my former friend and countryman, Lieut. BROWN, with whom I adjourned to a neighbouring hut. Upon my return, my luggage, which I had incautiously suffered to remain, was no longer to be found—it had become a prey to some of those prowling marauders with which the island abounded.—My spirits, which the information of the previous day

had sufficiently depressed, were by no means exhilarated by the communications of my friend, who stated, that since their arrival upon the island, they had not even received the promise of pay, and that their only rations were, a pint of Oatmeal, and one half pint of new Rum per diem: upon which, with a scanty supply of miserably bad Water, they were obliged to undergo six hours severe drilling *daily*, exposed to the beams of a vertical sun.

I, with five of my friends, were shewn to our quarters, a wretched hut of Bamboo, about 12 feet in length, by 10 in breadth; where, after the fatigue and starvation of the day, we had the earth for our bed, and our cloaks for a covering; while our restless slumbers were disturbed by the crawling of lizards and other vermin, which roamed along our faces, &c. in abundance. Turning from this baleful scene, I and my friends retired to dine in the only thing which had pretensions to the name of an Inn, where, compared with our other *comforts*, the accommodation was tolerable; after dinner we did every justice to BLACK SAM's hospitality, and o'er the festive board, forgot, for the moment, the ills with which we were surrounded, and to the termination of which we, as yet, saw no prospect.

28th—My attention, upon awaking this morning, was roused, by the pitiable situation in which I perceived, lying at my side, an English Officer,

who had served in the British Legion and had been wounded in the late engagement at *Cuma-na*, where General ENGLISH and his Troops had been defeated; he was stretched upon the naked ground, with scarcely an article of covering; where, without medicine or care, he seemed to await that fate which had already overtaken so many of his countrymen. Upon rising from my earthen couch I found my fellow-sufferers, seated around a vessel of Porridge, of which I partook, using as a wretched substitute for milk, the diluted juice of the *Papillon*, a species of nourishment rendered palatable by necessity. The only thing of importance, this day, was the sudden illness of General ENGLISH, whose state became still more unfavourable as the evening approached.

29th—Our first news this morning was, that General English was no more; his exertions in the cause of freedom, were arrested in their progress by the unerring hand of death. Orders were issued, by the Commanding Officer, for the men and officers composing the Irish Legion, to appear on Parade, in full uniform, to convey, in accordance with his latest wishes, the body of the deceased General to its silent and final resting-place. At 4 o'Clock P. M. the mournful stroke of the Muffled Drum announced the first movement of the doleful procession, in the following order—

Colonel MEADE's Rifle Brigade, arms reversed.  
The entire Regiment of Lancers, rank and file,  
arms reversed.

Native Troops of *Margaritta* two and two.

### THE BODY,

Borne by Lancer Officers.

General ENGLISH's Staff.

General DEVEREUX's Staff.

Admiral BRION's Staff.

Captains of the Patriot Navy.

Lieutenants of the Navy.

Sailors, two and two.

Marines, two and two.

The body being deposited in the silent tomb, three discharges of musquetry announced the close of the solemn ceremony, which were answered by a heavy discharge of Artillery from the neighbouring Forts, from the Admiral's Flag-ship, and most of the vessels in the Bay. The native troops consisted of about 2,000 of as fine looking and brave soldiers as ever handled a musket, and were dressed in Blue Jackets and White Trowsers, their Bayonets by their sides, and their Guns in their hands, but which they carried in a style peculiar to themselves; their sombre features bore evident marks of their participation in the feelings of the multitude, assembled to witness the awful ceremony. "The warriors home" having closed upon him for ever, the troops returned to *Juan Griego*; the sun was sinking into his watery bed in unusual splendour, and the music

playing our national air of "Patrick's Day," reminded us of the land of our nativity, from which we were separated, and to which, like our departed countryman, many were destined never to return.

General ENGLISH had long served in the British Army, holding the rank of Senior Lieutenant in the 18th Light Dragoons, but animated with the hopes held out to the enterprising, and eager to aid the exertions of the Spanish Patriots in freeing themselves from the despotic tyranny of *Ferdinand*; he sailed for *Margaritta* in the month of December, 1817, on board the *Emerald*, as Lieutenant-Colonel in the 1st Venezuelan Hussars, under the command of Colonel HIPPLESLEY. The disappointed ambition of Colonel H. caused his speedy return to his native country, certainly with severe pecuniary loss, and after undergoing considerable privations; a detailed account of which he has laid before the public, with severe phillipics, upon the characters of some of the Patriot Generals, which future events have already proved to have been rash and uncalled for. Colonel ENGLISH, more zealous and persevering, after serving a campaign with BOLIVAR, also returned to England, but armed with authority, by the Supreme Chief, to raise a Legion which he himself might lead to victory and final reward. Notwithstanding the disrepute which the ex-parte statements of such as had returned disconsolate and baffled in their

prospects, Colonel ENGLISH justly anticipated the alacrity with which his countrymen would rally round the standard of liberty; and in December 1818, he again embarked at *London* for *Margaritta*, having in his train a thousand brave soldiers, all of whom had fought the battles of their native country, and who, peace rendering their further labours unnecessary, sought fresh laurels in a distant and less hospitable clime.— In the month of March, 1819, this effective Legion landed in *Margaritta*, and immediately proceeded towards the main land, attacked *Cumana* unsuccessfully, took possession of *Barcelona*, and immediately proceeded to quarters in the interior. General ENGLISH, honored with the friendship and esteem of the supreme Chief, having been appointed Military Governor of *Margaritta*, returned thither, bringing with him such of his soldiers as had been wounded in the late warfare; where a fever, brought on by over-exertion in the preparations to resist the threatened landing of the Spanish fleet, at once put a period to his military career, and his life. The death of General ENGLISH was severely felt by his brother officers, to whom, his urbanity and general deportment had endeared him. In figure he was rather above the common size, and his open, well-formed countenance, was a true index of the manly feelings which prompted him to risk, and lose his life, in support of South American Independence.

30th. A fruitless attempt was this morning made to raise the Admiral's Flag-ship; a fine vessel, which brought from England Colonel HIP-PESLEY's 1st Hussars, and which, having been purchased by the Independent Government, received with its change of owners and situations, a suitable change of name, from '*The Emerald*', to "*Le Grande Victorie*."

Two of our Officers (DAVIS and JONES,) died, and were buried with military honors in the sands: many others were lying a prey to wretchedness and want, without beds, proper nourishment, medicine, or care. As our means of purchasing wholesome provisions daily decreased, so in proportion, increased the number of victims. To such a situation was I now reduced, that I gladly accepted of 6 dollars for the saddle and bridle which, in Dublin, had cost me upwards of seven guineas. Sauntering through the village of *Juan Griego*, with my friend BROWN, we were witnesses, for the first time, of a native dance—a species of fandango. A regular ring having been formed by a number of bystanders, of both sexes, a man rushed forward, the commencement of whose antic gestures was announced by a frightful howl from the spectators; after making a circular movement round the ring with his body nearly doubled, he was joined by his female companion, whose arrival was also greeted by a howl; she, taking a reverse direction, moved in a similar position to the male, until both came in contact, when they assumed a



variety of posture, and moved in slow attitudes, devoid of all grace, and accompanied with appropriate distortion of body and countenance.; during the varied continuance of their manœuvres each kept up a mournful cry of "a Low, a Lee," and each time their bodies came in contact, the delighted multitude set up their usual shout.

*Juan Griego*, the chief town, and residence of the principal inhabitants of the island, skirts the shores of the bay to which I have previous alluded, and contains about 500 inhabitants: it is an irregular assemblage of huts, partly built of stone, covered with a red tile, but by far the greater number are of mud, straw, or Bamboo, and none exceeding in height a single story; the rooms, generally speaking, are spacious and airy. There is a good Billiard Table in the village, which is well attended by the resident French merchants: Hazard and *ving et une*, particularly the latter, are common sources of amusement, and tended considerably to lighten the purses of some of our officers, who were foolish enough to risk their fortunes on the die, and deprive themselves of the only means by which they might add to their own, or the comforts of their more destitute friends. There is an excellent market, abundantly supplied with Turtle, a variety of other fish, and delicious fruit, in the quality and cheapness of which *Marguaritta* surpasses any of the other West India islands, especially in its Pine Apples, Melons, and Oranges. This island

also affords Horses, Pigs, and Goats; there are no Black Cattle, but what are brought from the *Maine*, and Mutton is not to be had at any price. But all these comforts are inadequate to compensate the inhabitants of *Juan Griego* for the scarcity of fresh water, as none can be procured within a shorter distance than three miles, and even that scarce, and of a miserably bad quality, being procured from a stagnant pool, and rolled in barrels the entire distance; the badness of the roads, preventing the possibility of any other kind of conveyance.

October 1st—My friend BROWN and I having agreed to visit together the interior of the island, and procured mules for the purpose, had, in honor of our journey, taken a comfortable breakfast at BLACK SAM's, and started. The road, or rather pathway, from *Juan Griego* to *Forté Norte*, a distance of six miles, is, for the greater part, through an extensive Jungle, consisting of low shrubs, and prickly furrs, so closely interwoven that the passage is almost impervious to an European, although the natives can find their way with as much ease as the animals whose footsteps they trace; I doubt much, had we strayed from the regular path, whether the clue of *Ariadne* could have extricated us from the labyrinth. As we proceeded we saw several flocks of a small species of Parrot, called by the natives *Paroquetta*; the bill, wings, and plumage, are uniformly grey; they are apt scholars, and quickly

taught to imitate the varieties of the human voice. We also saw the bird, from its cry called *Tropyall*, a bird much sought for, about the size of our common thrush; it has a bright yellow top, with breast of the same colour, whilst the wings and back exhibit a mixture of white, red, and black: its plumage is highly prized, as an ornament, by the Indian Chiefs on the *Maine*. The brilliant colours of the Woodpecker frequently arrested our attention, and a numerous list of other kinds which it would be foreign from my present purpose to notice. We were now delighted at the prospect which presented itself as we issued from the Jungle; the ground seemed highly cultivated, and as far as the eye could reach, we beheld fields of Indian Corn, the stalks of which groaned beneath the weight of their load; reminding us, in general appearance, of the lands of our nativity. On turning a little to the right, we caught a view of the Church of *Nôrte*, and proceeding onwards we soon slackened our pace, that we might, with more accuracy, take a survey of the town itself. Approaching it slowly, our entrance was somewhat retarded by the remains of a breast-work, made up of hampers filled with sand, which the Spaniards had thrown together to protect the town, when they had possession of the island. The houses, as we got into the town, were poor and irregular, but improved considerably upon approaching the Grand Square, the buildings of which are superior in structure to any we had

yet seen. In the centre of the square stands the Chapel, the finest and most substantial building in *Norte*.

It was now two o'clock, and we had been exposed to the rays of the sun for some hours, and felt considerable gratification when we arrived opposite the only Inn in the town, where we alighted, and considered ourselves peculiarly fortunate in being able to procure an interpreter, the only one residing within a circumference of some miles. The walls of the house, of which we were now inmates, were about ten feet in height, the centre of the roof about twenty, and the inner walls were raised higher than those of the inside, lest the current of air might be obstructed ; owing to the scarcity of glass, the windows were provided with wooden shutters, which were, in the hot season, seldom closed ; the rooms were unceiled, and the floors earthen : indeed this description of our Inn, may serve as a model of the better sort of houses in *Norte*, where there were only, we were told, three upon a superior construction—those of ARISMENDI, the Priest, and Colonel LOPEZ. My curiosity was now raised to know something of the former, whose deeds I had so frequently heard recounted, and the garrulity of our interpreter seemed to promise a speedy gratification. This communicative Negro, seemed above the usual class, and had acquired a degree of knowledge and reflection beyond the generality of his countrymen : he ex-

pressed a strong partiality towards the Irish, owing to the kind attentions he had once received from a Surgeon, an Irishman, who attended him during the effects of a severe wound he had received, upon a former attempt of MORILLO to make good a landing upon the island.

Having dined sumptuously upon Fish fried in oil, we, taking ROMANO, our interpreter, as a guide, went to view the fort, which is situated upon a rising ground behind the town, and commands a delightful prospect. The Spaniards who constructed the fort, erected a platform on its summit, eight feet high, having an apparatus encircling it, one hundred feet in circumference, around which a pivot gun, a 24 Pounder, traverses, and can, of course, be used with effect, in every possible direction. We ascended the ladder, and having gazed upon the surrounding scenery, seated ourselves upon the gun, requesting ROMANO to let us know something of ARISMENDI, whose "look-out Tower" he pointed out, at some distance, on the top of a commanding eminence. ROMANO, "nothing loath," commenced his interesting detail, the substance of which I record, particularly as the general accuracy of his statements have corroboratory testimony in their favour.

"The cruelty and brutality, uniformly exercised towards the native inhabitants by the European Spaniards, had rendered their name odious; still, born as the unfortunate natives were, in

chains, and brought up in slavery, none dared to resist the cruelties and oppressions heaped upon them, until the arrival, as Governor of *Margaritta*, of MORILLO, whose tyrannic and even unusual system of slaughter, goaded on the most apathetic to schemes of revenge. MORILLO had long held the Governorship, and given unbounded scope to the exercise of his blood-thirsty disposition, ere the native energies of ARISMENDI were called into action, or he started as the avenger of his country's wrongs, and the assertor of its independence. ARISMENDI was the servant of MORILLO, and was ordered upon a particular day (here ROMANO burst into tears—may that day be ever sacred to the cause of freedom!!) by the haughty chieftain, to bring a light, that he might kindle his segar; on obeying the orders of his master, a spark from his torch, chanced to fall upon the sandal of the proud Spaniard, who, indignant at the supposed insult, terminated a torrent of uncalled-for abuse, by A BLOW, which laid ARISMENDI prostrate at his feet, in a state of insensibility. From that moment revenge was his darling theme, the cherished object of his every thought. He wandered from house to house in search of "kindred spirits" on the strength of whose arms he could depend, detailing the oppressions and severities of MORILLO's Government, and threatening vengeance not only on him, but on every Spaniard on the island, as part of the system of tyranny, under which his

brethren laboured. His countrymen fully coincided with him in opinion, yet such was the apparent impracticability of his scheme, that six were all that he could persuade, in the first instance, to become partakers in his fortunes, and sharers in his dangers; these he armed at the expence of MORILLO, to whose house he still had access, and started at midnight to commence the apparently visionary scheme of his country's redemption. In the right hand he carried a musket, and in his left, an immense speaking-trumpet, which he had also taken from the Spanish General; thus armed and accoutred, he led his companions to the entrance of the Jungle, about a mile distant from *Norte*, and which extends in a south-east direction towards the mountains, from six to eight miles. ARISMENDI and his followers were well acquainted with the passages and windings in the Jungle, and fully aware that their intricate passes were beyond "the ken" of an European; he, therefore, upon entering within the pale, raised the huge trumpet to his mouth, and in a voice of thunder, with little delicacy of language, execrated the tyranny of the Spaniards, the daring usurpation of their King, and the sanguinary haughty soul of the cruel MORILLO, whose guards he dared to come in his pursuit. MORILLO could not long remain in ignorance of the insulting challenge, though scarcely conscious of its author, and roused to madness by the question of his power, he ordered his guard, con-

sisting of a serjeant and twelve men, to proceed in the direction of the sands, and bring with them, living or dead, every man, woman, or child, on whom they could lay their hands. ARISMENDI, alive to his situation, heard their approach without fear, posted himself in the pathway ; after having given orders to four of his men to fire upon them in their coming forward, whilst he and the remaining two, taking advantage of the confusion, would fall on them, sword in hand. Such was the promptitude with which his orders were obeyed, and such the energy of his own deeds, that 10 of the 13 Guards were left upon the field, and their arms secured for the outfit of those, who, hearing of this successful attempt, flocked to join him. The following night, he and his party, attacked and cut to pieces an officer and 24 men, arming, as before, his companions with this fresh accession to his armory.

“ The name of ARISMENDI rapidly became the password to freedom whilst his fame extended ; the mother, delighted at the prospect of liberty to her child, sought to instil the principles of the patriot into her offspring, and taught his infant lips to pronounce the name of ARISMENDI ; every eye was turned to his deeds, and upon every new scene of Spanish butchery, he was hailed as the deliverer of his country. The Spaniards were panic-struck, and MORILLO himself, seeing his troops depart in the morning to scour the country,



in search of the insurgents, and seeing none return to relate the fate of his slaughtered soldiery, began to repent him of his former cruelties; he therefore desisted from employing force, and used stratagem to recall them to their allegiance. A free pardon was offered to all who had taken any part in the insurrection, save the intrepid ARISMENDI, on whom alone, he determined to wreak his vengeance; yet none obeyed the call, but persisted in attempting to free themselves from the galling fetters of slavery. Six hundred of the bravest and most warlike, amongst the Spaniards, had already fallen; and no day passed without adding to the numbers of the slain.

MORILLO, urged to despair by a review of passing events, and chagrined at the ill-success of his pacific attempts, resolved to make a final struggle at conquering the obstinacy of the *independents*, by working upon their fears. He, therefore, invented new tortures, which he proclaimed should be rigorously enforced on such as were found acting in opposition to the Spanish authorities; thereby laying the ground-work for the various scenes of cold-blooded butchery, which have since marked the career of the contending parties.—The wife of one of the natives, who had revolted, was taken before the Governor, with a babe in her arms; on his being told who she was, and the conduct of her husband, he snatched the infant from her embrace, and seizing it by the legs, literally tore it asunder: the unfortunate mother,

after having her breasts torn off, in the most horrible manner, was buried up to the neck, opposite the door of her own hut, where she expired under the most agonizing sufferings.

“The spirit of revolt which, till now, had remained smothered in the breasts of the majority of the Marguarittanians, openly burst forth; and ARISMENDI, placing himself at the head of his army, took the field, defeated MORILLO, and drove him from *Forte Norte*. The conquerors, elated with victory, pursued the retreating Spaniards to the city of *Assumption*, where they rallied, and after a smart contest, which lasted three hours, again suffered defeat, and were obliged to retreat to *Pampatar*, the only regularly fortified place in the island, which is considered a great strength. Here, after an unsuccessful attempt to draw together his forces, MORILLO was necessitated to collect the remains of his disheartened troops, and retire to the *Maine*.

“The peace and independence which was thus, through the instrumentality of ARISMENDI, gained for *Maguaritta*, was but of short duration; that General departed, upon some secret expedition, for the *Maine*, unsuspecting of any untoward event occurring in his absence. MORILLO, who still had his spies in the island, was no sooner informed of his secret departure, than he hastened again to the seat of his former Government; with 36 sail of vessels, and a body of troops, equalling in number the amount of the inhabitants. In this dilemma, the wise men of the island thought it

advisable to offer the Spaniard the following terms, to which he gladly acceded:—that the people should have the liberty of choosing their own governor—that he, MORILLO, should again come to the island, not as Governor, but Commander-in-Chief—that a limitation should be placed to his powers of punishment—and, lastly, that upon no account whatever should ARISMENDI be subjected to punishment. These articles having been duly signed, and sworn to, MORILLO took possession of *Margaritta*, as Commander-in-Chief.

“ Calling prudence in aid of his future views, the Commander attempted to burn the Jungle of the island, which had formerly screened the insurgents, and frustrated his revenge; but in vain—the prickly bushes, and indurated boughs refused to yield to the fiery element. He, still determined on their extirpation, set his soldiers to work, who, laying down their more warlike instruments, wielded the axe, and commenced rooting out the vast plantation. This, however, was no mean task; the soldiery, unused to the labour, rapidly became victims to the fevers consequent on over fatigue, and MORILLO soon saw, that in this way, the destruction of his army was as certain, though less sudden, as when cut to pieces by the ruthless ARISMENDI.

“ The arrival of the patriot, at this critical period, with arms and ammunition, was the signal for the recommencement of hostilities; the result of which was, that MORILLO was again oblig-

ed to fly from the island, leaving behind him the bodies of Fifteen Hundred of his brave soldiers.

“ARISMENDI, flushed with conquest, hastened to the *Maine*, to aid the revolutionists, and glut his vengeance on his ancient oppressors: MORILLO, dreading the arm of the hated ARISMENDI, returned a second time to *Margaritta*, taking possession, on his landing, of *Juan Griego*, the fort, or battery of which was blown up by an insurgent, and one hundred of the enemy buried in the ruins. The islanders attacking, with amazing bravery, put to rout the Spaniards, where the bones of six hundred still remain blanching in the sun. MORILLO, dispirited, had recourse to his ships, to the grief of ARISMENDI, who at this juncture arrived in his canoe, determined that his enemy should no longer escape.

“Previous to the late engagement, the wives, children, and infirm parents of the natives, were ordered to the mountains, as a place of greater security. Two of the females, during the engagement, probably conceiving they had more at stake than any of their associates, descended from their hiding place, and became prisoners to two of the Spanish Cavalry: they were the wives of ARISMENDI and Governor GOMEZ, who commanded in his absence; these were instantly sent to MORILLO, who had retreated on board his vessel in the bay. Two Spanish Officers of distinction having, on the same day, fallen into the hands of the independents, a flag of truce was

dispatched to the patriot chief to announce the capture. 'I come' said the officer, on approaching ARISMENDI, 'the Ambassador of MORILLO, whose words I speak; your wife is in his power, and likewise the wife of your Governor GOMEZ; you have this day made prisoners of two Spanish Officers; deliver them up, supplied with passports to return to their General; and your wife, and that of GOMEZ are free.' ARISMENDI, with an ineffable smile of supercilious contempt, replied,—'Not so, my friend, whio'er thou art return to your General, and repeat these my words, but with an answer return not to me. My first and dearest love is that for my country, next for my children and wife. My prisoners are men possessing knowledge and experience, whose liberties would be exerted in re-attempting the thralldom of my country. The women held by your base coward, can neither injure him, nor abet me. As for my prisoners—their doom is fixed—so soon as to-morrow's sun has tintured the eastern hemisphere with his first ray—I swear they die. Messenger away! Advise your General to return no more—tell him ARISMENDI is here, which had he been a few hours sooner, his hated corse, with those of his myrmidons and blood-hounds, would, ere this, have been a prey to the fowls of the air.' The messenger returned with the entreaties of his General for the release of his friends, or in default thereof, a few hours should witness the massacre of his female prison-

ers. 'Bring forth those gentlemen' said ARTS-MENDI 'about whose welfare MORILLO seems so anxious;'—the prisoners were led forward, when, upon a signal peculiar to himself, six swords were sheathed in the body of each. 'Hang them up' said he, with a triumphant air 'on the signal post, at the outer fort of *Pampatar*, that MORILLO may behold his beloved friends. As for you, Sir,' turning round to the messenger 'I desired you to return no more.' These words vibrated, as his final knell, upon the ear of the Spaniard, who, falling on his knees, implored forgiveness; but in vain,—he shared the fate of the others, and his body was suspended by their sides. MORILLO, on viewing the horrid spectacle, weighed anchor, and proceeded to the *Maine*, where his prisoners escaped, and returned to *Margaritta*, but in what manner, ROMANO was unacquainted."

Here ended the recital of our interpreter, whose narrative wound up our feelings to the highest pitch, and to the verity of which, the tears, which rolled in abundance over his manly cheek, bore ample witness.

The evening was rapidly advancing; after having, in vain, attempted to procure a mule for our interpreter, ROMANO, my companion and myself hastened to visit the towns of *Assumption* and *Pampatar*, which we found differing in no material points from those already described, save in the extent and number of the forts of the lat-

ter. Anxiously hastening to *Juan Griego* arrived at our former quarters about midnight, fatigued beyond measure with the exertions of the day.

2nd—I awoke this morning considerably feverish; an officer beside me in a most dangerous state of illness, to which I was apparently hastening. As I lay in this situation, without medical aid, or any assistance whatever, unless what I might receive from the solicitude of friends, not much better situated than myself, my thoughts naturally turned to the home I had forsaken, the objects, which in common with my companions, I sought to obtain, and the probability, in our present prospects, of the hopes held out, ever being realized. With the various scenes of anguish, misery, and disappointed expectations with which I was surrounded, my mind in a state of despondency inseparable from want and disease, can it be thought strange that I resolved to abandon a cause, in which I had, as yet, only seen disease and penury, or at least attempt a passage to *Trinidad* where I expected not only to meet a beloved brother, to have my health restored, but to be placed in possession of funds by a merchant there, on whom I had a draft, and afterwards proceed to *Augustura* through the gulph of *Paria*, and up the *Orinoco*; particularly so, when I saw before me the brave officers of General ENGLISH's Legion, who had fought and bled in the cause in which they had volunteered, abandoned to their

fate, amid beggary and hardship. Thus agitated, though somewhat refreshed by a cup of Coffee, given me by a friend, I crawled into the open air, where the first object that presented itself was that of a Cadet who had sailed with me, perishing beneath a cannon; I turned my eyes from the mournful scene, and returned to my hut, spiritless and dejected.

3d.—Finding myself a little relieved, I strolled to the beach, and looking in the direction of my native isle, a sigh escaped me as I reflected on the vast tract of ocean by which I was separated from it, and the possibility there existed, in my present state, of my never beholding it again; a gleam of hope lightened my dejection, as I received the cheering information, from a sailor whom I addressed, that the *Charlotte Gambier*, a vessel which had brought out the 1st Division of Colonel MEADE's Rifle Brigade, was about to proceed to *Trinidad*. The following day having been appointed for her sailing, I waited on Colonel AYLMER, requesting a few days leave of absence to go to *Trinidad* on business, which he flatly refused; upon which I tendered my resignation, and to which he had no objection, though he did not see the necessity for my going at all. I hastened for my Commission, and with it waited on parade until Col. A. would be at leisure; by the interference of a friend the necessity for my resignation was removed, and leave of absence granted me. I sold my dress jacket for six



dollars, to defray the expences of my passage, and placing my few remaining articles, consisting of Books, &c. in a small trunk, I felt my mind considerably more at ease.

My arrangements for leaving *Marguaritta* were completed, with the exception of a passport, for which I was obliged to make application to Admiral BRION. I had frequently seen this commander upon the beach, where, with a large glass, it was his custom to take cognizance of the several ships in the bay, and acquire the country, &c. of such as should appear in the offing. His usual dress upon those occasions, was a large Straw Hat, Naval Blue Coat, with a massy Gold Epaulette upon each shoulder, White Trowsers and Waistcoat. I waited upon him at his house in *Juan Griego*, for the purpose above mentioned, and found him seated at a table, in the act of writing. Having, through the medium of an interpreter, made my business known, he examined my order, as signed by Colonel AYLMER, and gave directions for my passport being made out, without much apparent cordiality of disposition.

Admiral BRION, Captain-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Navy of the Venezuelan republic, was born in the island of *Caracao*, the only island of importance in the *West Indies*, retained by the Dutch; he was early brought up to a sea-faring life, and has served in the cause of the independents, upon many occasions, with the most distinguished success. In stature he

is about the middle size, stout, even Dutch built, with a steady, manly tread of foot, characteristic of natural courage and firmness of character; his round broad face is slightly marked with the small-pox, and bears evident testimony of its frequent exposure to the varieties of a tropical climate: bushy black hair, dark piercing eyes, and the peculiar wiry mustachios which adorn his upper lip, give to his countenance that degree of ferocity, for which his various sanguinary acts have rendered him so notorious. To many of those acts he was instigated by the revolting scenes of barbarity practised upon his sailors and officers, by the blood-thirsty MORILLO; who had long sworn, should he be so fortunate as to get BRION into his power, to broil him upon a frying pan: and it is but just to allow, that the Naval Patriot made the haughty MORILLO feel, by the ferocious exercise of his authority, that the most dreadful fate that awaited him, could not surpass his deserts.

4th—The signal for sailing having appeared, I bade a long farewell to all, and a last to many of my companions; and entering the boat, with such of the officers as were accompanying me, we put off from land, when a voice from shore arrested our progress: Mr. JAMIESON, an officer I had previously known in *Dublin*, whose voice it was, jumped into the sea, and swam on board. It was at this time our particular intimacy took place, an intimacy which terminated with his

life at *Angustura*, after a participation with me, in so many of my future cares and sufferings. My servant, unwilling to be separated from me, and finding it impossible to obtain a passport, had secreted himself in the hold without my knowledge: I was still more surprized to find Colonel MEADE on board, whose treatment in *Margaritta* was base & undeserved. This gentleman informed me that according to the previous arrangements entered into by him with General DEVEREUX, he should, upon the demise of General ENGLISH, have obtained the command of the Irish Legion; which was assumed by an Irish renegado named JACKSON, who had been attached to the Staff of Admiral BRION. Colonel MEADE, refusing to give obedience to the orders of the renegado, was arrested, robbed of every article of value he possessed, & sent, guarded, on board the *Orinoco* Flag ship, from which he was afterwards permitted to enter the *Charlotte Gambier*, but threatened with death, should he ever again land upon the island. About sixteen officers sailed in this ship from *Margaritta*, and many were disappointed in their passage; one of whom, in particular, who belonged to the commissariat department, had agreed to mess with me, who failing in his intended purpose, bequeathed to me a small box of Oatmeal, with which he had provided himself for the voyage.

5th—We this morning bade adieu to the ill-fated shores of *Margaritta*, with fully more

pleasure than we had hailed them on our first approach ; leaving behind us for ever the bodies of many who had at first viewed them with equal transport, and separated from still more who seemed rapidly following their departed comrades ; a sigh for their present estate, and prayers for their future prosperity, were all we could now offer them, as we were parted from their sight by the rapid movement of our Bark.

I must not here omit the attentions of my two most particular friends, Lieutenants BROWN and DUNN, who accompanied me on board and were the last to say—farewell. These enterprising young men, having been wholly free from disease, were determined to persevere, undaunted, in their perilous pursuit ; of DUNN I have never since heard ; but have traced the glorious path of BROWN to *Rio de la Hache* where he behaved most gallantly, and after reaping unsullied laurels throughout a long campaign, heard of his subsequent arrival at *Carthagena*, where he was rewarded with the command of a company.

The island of *Margaritta* is 5° West of *Trinidad*, and separated from the South American continent, at *Cumana*, by a strait seven leagues in breadth. It is fifteen leagues in length, six in breadth, and presents to the eye a rich and agreeable prospect. The soil, notwithstanding its dry and arid appearance, and the scarcity of water, is remarkably fertile ; abounding with pastures, corn, cotton, maize, and fruits. It is inhabited

by people of colour and Indians, who principally subsist by fishing, the manufacture of hammocks, for which they are celebrated, and the profits arising from their traffic in pearls, which are procured on their coasts, though not in such quantities as formerly. The native inhabitants are celebrated for their intrepidity and courage; qualities which, since the commencement of the revolutionary war, have so frequently deluged their island with blood, and reduced the number of its inhabitants—at present not exceeding fifteen thousand. The obstinate resistance, with which, under ANSIMENDI and other Patriot Chieftains, they have uniformly opposed to the inroads of their oppressors, with its commanding situation, as it regards the Caracas, has made *Margaritta* the dread of the Spaniards, and given it a character in the late contest, far beyond its actual extent, or the number of its inhabitants.

6th—Upon entering the cabin as usual, the Captain, (an antiquated Scotchman, whose shrivelled and indurated features, small inanimate grey eyes, and diminutive body, were indicative of his inhumanity and narrowness of soul) although we had previously paid for a cabin passage, told us with the utmost coolness, and in the broadest scotch dialect, that “his weenie huse was his ain, an’ out we should gang, an’ forige for ournels;” this treatment, we were not in a condition to resent, but afterwards discovered its origin in the paucity of our provisions, and the deficien-

cy of Whiskey or Rum, for which the old gentleman had a most profound veneration. This deprivation was the more severe, as one of the passengers whose berth was contiguous to ours, and without any separation, was pronounced by the Surgeon (for we had one on board) to have caught the yellow fever; the rainy season had also set in, with extreme violence, which prevented us enjoying upon deck the sports of the natives of the deep; so that our situation either ways was unwholesome and distressing.

7th—A sail hove in sight, which we feared might be a Spanish Privateer, and prepared to give battle; whilst our attention was thus directed, a man at the mast-head descried land, but to what island or mainland it belonged, the Captain was uncertain. As we neared it, what was our astonishment to discover in the vessel, a Patriot Privateer, and the land to be—*Margaritta*, from which we conceived ourselves to be a couple of days good sailing. The fact was—that the strong current occasioned by the *Orinoco* emptying itself, during the rainy season, with such violence into the gulph of *Paria*, had not only retarded our progress, but driven us in a retrograde direction. We again stood to sea, but the clouds of night closed around us, still lingering near this fated coast.

8th—This morning again found us hovering, as heretofore, on the shores of *Margaritta*, as if encircled by the spell of a magician. The pas-

senger, whose illness I have already mentioned, died ; and his remains were consigned to the great deep. It was a sad sight ; thus to see one of our party entombed in the ocean ; three others in imminent danger ; our vessel lingering on a coast where her crew dared not land, having quitted their privateers without the necessary passports ; & our provisions and water rapidly decreasing, without any immediate appearance of reaching our destination. Towards mid-day the shores of *Marguaritta* became more obscure, and the Spanish Maine gradually became visible ; the sight of which conjured up a variety of contending emotions. I saw before me the land which, in imagination, I had so often traversed ; the country where all the brilliant prospects, I had been led to expect, were to be realized ; the theatre upon which the honours already reaped, in idea, were to be rewarded. How changed the picture ! turning my back upon "the land of promise ;" my sanguine expectations almost blasted ; my ideal pleasures smothered by the cravings of nature, without a sufficiency of food to alleviate them ; flying from anticipated evils still more dreadful, in a vessel, whose only berth allowed was occupied by a companion in fever ; and destitute of clothing sufficient to resist the torrents of rain which poured upon deck. But why reflect upon the scenes that are past ; the cherub hope still clung to my breast, and perseverance was alone necessary. Mr. O'BRIEN, one

of our officers, was during the whole of this day dangerously ill, and the medicine exhausted.

9th.—The morn was ushered in by a succession of peals of thunder, almost incessant flashes of lightning, and frequent severe squalls. Towards evening the severity of the weather somewhat abated. About midnight we were summoned from our wretched resting places, to witness the last sad disposal of poor O'BRIEN's remains; he had expired about ten minutes before in the arms of Captain SKENRETT. The uncommon interest taken by this gentleman, in the sufferings and untimely fate of young O'BRIEN, was perhaps increased by those paternal feelings, which, as the father of a family, he so often indulged; a tear was all that any of us could afford, as tangible consolation was not in our power, and sorrow and regret were the only species of alleviation we could bestow upon the death-bed sufferings of our companion.

The body was wrapped in a sack, and towards one o'clock, on the morning of the 10th, committed to its watery abode. The awful solemnity of the midnight obsequies, were much increased by the continued peals of thunder which interrupted the gentle murmurings of the breeze, and the vivid flashes of lightning gave us, amid the darkness, a transient and final view of the body as it sunk to repose in the vast abyss. Shortly after the mournful rites were concluded, I perceived a man in an attitude of devotion; I slowly ap-



proached, and, as he rose from his knees, recognized my revered friend SKERRETT. As he brushed the rolling tear from his manly cheek, he spoke of O'BRIEN, and, for the moment, such was the agonizing state of his mind, yielded to despair; giving up as lost for ever, his family, his home, his country. The fever raged below, and during the remaining part of the night we paced the deck, amid incessant torrents of rain, reflecting on the peculiarity of our situation.

As the morning advanced, three more of our officers were taken ill, and a man, whose sufferings were but of few hours duration, died, and was thrown over board. A few only now were sufficiently well to keep the deck, and such was the situation below, that we turned from it with disgust. The several stores of provisions laid in for this short voyage, were expended; here my box of oatmeal stood my friend, which, baked into bread by my servant, was truly delicious. The land we were passing seemed an entire range of mountains, bold and majestic, and thickly wooded, but we could perceive neither house nor appearance of habitation. A proposition was made by Colonel MEADE that the boat should be lowered and manned, and sent in search of provisions and water; an end was speedily put to this hope by the Captain's refusing to let us have it. Highly incensed by the refusal, and unable, by the severity of the weather, to retain our situations upon deck, it was resolved that we should no

longer tamely submit to the cruelty of the Captain, but take possession of the Cabin. For this purpose, as many as could yet crawl about, each armed himself with a pair of pistols, and we were on the eve of executing our purpose, when the interference of Providence put a stop to a proceeding which, in its consequences, might have been dreadful. The wind, which had never been favourable, shifted, and the breeze wafted us speedily toward the wished-for harbour. We had already passed the first bogus or passage of the gulph of *Paria*, and, as the sun set, in all his majesty, burnishing the shores of *Trinidad*, we could perceive the distant appearances of civilization ; returning thanks to that being who had watched over us in our distresses, we retired to our several resting places.

11th—About 11 o'clock we cast anchor, in the midst of merchant vessels, within a quarter of a league of *Port au Spaine*, the capital of *Trinidad*. During our preparations for landing, a boat came along side ; the usual questions, from a gentleman in naval uniform, were replied to ; and after having expressed his surprize at our arrival from *Margaritta*, and at our situation, he said we should be supplied with such articles as seemed most required : after giving strict orders for no one to attempt the shore, he left us.

12th—The same gentleman, whom we now understood to be harbour-master, again visited us, accompanied by the Physician-General ; he

enquired particularly whether we had disease which was positively denied ; after leaving directions that we should hoist our quarantine flag, and fumigate the vessel, they departed, promising a visit on the coming day, with permission to land, if our report were found to be correct. In the course of the day an officer named CARROLL died, and, owing to our situation, his body was carried in the boat to a considerable distance, and sunk for ever in the gulf of *Paria*.

13th. A busy day with us all, every exertion being necessary to give the ship a healthy appearance, and dress up the diseased ; thereby to elude the vigilance of the inspectors. At 3 o'clock P.M. they came on board and minutely examined the passengers, crew, and ship. A certificate of health was granted ; an English Jack supplanted the Quarantine flag ; and the signal gun proclaimed every impediment to our landing at an end.

14th—Having landed in *Trinidad*, our provisions completely exhausted, and our joint stock of cash not amounting to more than a few dollars, a number of us formed a mess, of which I was the caterer, and for some time lived with tolerable comfort ; well satisfied, when we looked to our circumstances, a few days back, with coffee twice a day, which in the *West India* islands is so remarkably cheap.

Refreshing ourselves for a few days, and rapidly recruiting in health and spirits, we were employ

ed in drawing up a petition, to be presented to the Governor, detailing our grievances, real and supposed; representing the circumstances under which we had quitted our native homes; and claiming his protection and assistance, as British subjects. This being laid before his Excellency, Sir RALPH WOODFORD, he, in the most humane and polite manner, expressed his regret that he was not in possession of any authority to warrant him in sending us home; but stating, that nothing in his power should be wanting to make our condition upon the island as comfortable as possible, until we should either find employment, or acquire some means of returning to *Ireland*. In accordance with the sentiments thus handsomely expressed, *Cumberland-House* was fitted up for our reception; to which, as soon as possible, we removed; an excellent table was uniformly provided for us, with a sufficient allowance of Rum, Tobacco, and such other necessities as we stood in need of.

Colonel MEADE, who resided in the house of Mr. WHIRLING, a Merchant of the greatest respectability, having made known the treatment he had met with from the authorities at *Marguarritta*, was waited on by a few of the principal lawyers and merchants in the island, friends of the Patriot cause, who expressed how sincerely they felt for the unmerited rigour exercised towards him, and offered to pledge themselves for his safety, provided he would proceed to *Angus-*

*tura*, and lay before the Congress, then sitting, a statement of his claims and grievances; they gave him assurances of his kind reception, and complete redress; and tendered their interest in furtherance of his wishes:—this the Colonel, upon mature deliberation, declined.

The contrast so naturally formed between our present and past circumstances, and the comparative enjoyments of which we were now in possession, were not greater than the revolution which had taken place in the resolutions of my friend JAMIESON and myself. We had voluntarily enlisted in the service of the independents of *South America*, and without due perseverance, or like men advancing steadily to the hoped-for goal, were on the eve of yielding to the example of others, and resigning a cause which, at first sight, presented difficulties, but in which, by steadiness alone could we ever hope for a successful termination. Our retreat was, as yet, not too far advanced; and whether, like cowards, to desert the cause of patriotism, and by returning to our native country become the laughing-stocks of those who had opposed our ardent hopes in the undertaking, and acknowledge ourselves the dupes of interested impostors;—or, pursue the path of glory, unmindful of the hazardous difficulties which might be opposed to us, was now the question. Thus wavering, Colonel MEADE had but little difficulty in prevailing upon JAMIESON and myself to undertake the charge of

dispatches from him to the Supreme Chief, BOLIVAR; an arduous task, particularly as we were unacquainted with his present quarters: should we, however, find it impossible to reach the camp of the General, we were instructed to proceed to *Angustura*, and lay our dispatches and instructions before the Congress. Determined to persevere to the end, we were each presented with the commission of Captain, and in conformity with the previous power granted to Colonel MEADE, we were appointed his *Aid de Camps*, and invested with full authority to act as and for himself.

The several arrangements into which, in consequence of our determination, we were obliged to enter, necessarily detained us for some time; and the want of money was not the slightest obstacle we had to encounter; particularly so, as the merchant on whom I had the draught had departed, upon a mercantile speculation, to the *United States*; and my brother, a distinguished officer in the British Navy, on the *West India* station, had not been off the coast of *Trinidad* for some weeks.

I had, as my reader must remember, parted with the greater part of my regimentals at *Margaritta*; and the only resource now left me, was to dispose of the small library which had served to lighten the tedium of many a lingering hour: the sale of these my former companions was the labour of a moment, and enabled me to completely

rest, from the stores of some of those who were on the eve of returning to *Great Britain*, and whose dresses were now useless, or in their native country would serve to call down odium upon the possessors: my fellow-traveller JAMIESON, whose baggage had been taken by the Spaniards, was aided in his repairs by Colonel MEADE, and altogether, when fully rigged, we made rather a respectable appearance. Dispatches were drawn up by the Colonel, with the purport of which we were made acquainted, at the same time receiving his final directions in what manner we were to act and proceed; in addition to which we were furnished, by the merchants, with letters to the Supreme Chief, the vice-president of the Congress, and, in fact, to every officer of note in the republic.

Previous to my departure I had the satisfaction of seeing such officers as had sailed with me from *Margaritta*, secured in their passage homewards, or already sailed; and on the 4th of November every thing was in readiness for the departure of JAMIESON and myself for the Spanish *Maine*.

*Trinidad*, to which we were now about to bid adieu, has little in its history that could be interesting to the generality of readers; it is situated from 9° 22' to 10° 20' N. latitude, and from 60° 30' to 61° 30' W. longitude, forming one side of the gulph of *Paria*. In length it extends about twenty leagues, and is fifteen in breadth. The soil is highly productive; supplying in abund-

dance, Sugar, Indian Corn, Fruit, Cotton, and a superior quality of Tobacco. My time was so occupied during the time I was at this visit on the island, that I was unable to examine the nature of the soil, character of its inhabitants, &c. as I could have wished. It would be the extreme of injustice in me, were I to omit thus publicly, an expression of my acknowledgments for the innumerable instances of kindness and attention with which I was honoured on this, as upon my returning visit from *Angustura*. I sincerely trust this volume may fall into the hands of some of my former friends on the island, as a satisfactory testimonial, that though distant, and unable to discharge the debt of gratitude I owe, I am not defective in retaining the memory of kind actions, so graciously conferred upon an unfortunate stranger.

November 5th—Mr. JAMIESON and I sailed from *Port au Spaine* for the *Maine*, in an open boat, with a small store of provisions, supplied by the bounty of Mr. LITTLEPAGE, and seven dollars in cash; the boats' crew consisted of four persons, not one of whom understood a sentence of English. During the day, we were favoured with a light, pleasant breeze, and in the night anchored in a small bay, on the continent, called, by the crew, *Cumac*. Next morning we went on shore, and were most agreeably surprized at finding a plentiful supply of Oranges and Cocoa Nuts, growing around us in every direction, in all the



luxuriance of native wildness. This had been, previous to the war, a very valuable settlement; but, like many others, was now depopulated by the sanguinary fury of the contending parties. The remains of a considerable village having been pointed out, we made our way thither, and were but poorly rewarded for the difficulties by which our passage was impeded, lying through a wilderness of weeds and long entangled grass. It was totally in ruins, and deserted since the first commencement of the revolution. During the remaining part of this day our crew were employed in cutting grass, for the purpose, as we understood, of feeding the cattle for which they were proceeding to *Maturin*, and which is the staple commodity of the place.

7th—After coasting the entire day, within gun-shot of an elevated, uncultivated district of country, we, in the evening, arrived in the small bay called *Winnamete*. Here the ravages of war were equally perceptible. As we neared the shore, two savages, black, and in an entire state of nudity, rushed from a thicket, with a horrible yell; having been addressed by the commander of our little bark, they assisted in hauling it ashore; each was armed with a long pole, for the double purpose, as we were informed, of knocking the oranges off the trees, and protecting themselves from injury. Having welcomed us on shore, they surveyed my companion and I with apparent astonishment, and disappeared in the

woods ; in a few minutes they made their re-appearance, laden with Oranges, which, with truly native politeness, they presented to us. We partook chearfully of their bounty, and accompanied them to their huts ; we found the entrance rather troublesome, being obliged to crawl upon all-fours, though roomy and comfortable within, where we were introduced to the wives and children of our conductors, in a wretchedly filthy condition. These huts were situated on the outskirts of a large and valuable plantation, producing Sugar-canes, Oranges, Cocoa-nuts, Pumpkins, &c. &c. some of the Sugar-canes rising from twenty to thirty feet in height. The crew of our boat, who had followed us, armed for the purpose, commenced an attack upon the canes, which they hewed down in large quantities, and with the assistance of the blacks, placed them on board. This plantation extended for some miles, and was one of the most fertile spots I had yet seen, though rapidly hastening to a state of nature ; the usual consequence of intestine broils ; the inhabitants having all fallen sacrifices to the ferocity of one or other of the warring parties. Our savage host produced for our inspection, a mill which he made use of, to express the juice from the Sugar-cane ; it was a strong post, hollowed, which bore a rude resemblance to the mortar of an Apothecary, and had a corresponding pestle. With this rustic mill he was enabled to extract a considerable portion of the juice, which was collected in a

large Calabash underneath. He performed the operation in our presence, and seemed not a little pleased with his ingenuity. The ruins of an extensive mill were pointed out to us, at some distance; the road to which was rendered almost impassible by the devastations of the army. We also visited the remains of an immense rum still, which was built of brick and mortar, unusual materials in that country. Complaining, by signs, to the friendly negroes, that we were thirsty, one of them ran & brought us a mixture of rich syrup & water, a drink truly delicious; in return we presented them with a few segars, for which they were extremely grateful. It is most likely that these solitary savages had made their escape from slavery in some of the neighbouring *West India* islands, and now lived a life of idleness, surrounded by abundance.

8th—Coasting, as on the former day, in a S. E. direction, towards evening we found ourselves in the river *Arac*; which at its entrance from the sea is about a mile in breadth, its shores gradually contracting as we ascended. The country on each side of the river is flat and thickly wooded; the trees skirting the margins present a rich luxuriant picture, alternately relieved by hills, glens, and ravines, for which the mind in vain searches for a resemblance in the most perfect landscapes of northern climates. The current ran with rapidity, but as the tide was flowing, its effects were not very perceivable to us. Seve-

ral flights of Parrots crossed our passage, whose plumage as acted upon by the rays of the sun, seemed to our vision of the most beautiful crimson. We gazed upon the scene around us with rapture, and in the enjoyment of nature's beauties, forgot for the moment the perils we had escaped, and were still to encounter.

The tide having turned, we cast anchor close to the shore; the sun had gone down, when the sky became clouded, and with the darkness, torrents of rain began to descend; we rolled ourselves up in our Boat-cloaks, and in despite of the "pelting of the pitiless storm" courted the approaches of the drowsy God. Our slumbers were speedily terminated by the arrival of a formidable, and to us previously unknown race of visitants, the Musquitoes, of whose existence we were soon convinced; nothing could repel their attacks, and the sleep of which we stood so much in need was completely banished.

9th — The break of day gave us infinite satisfaction, as with it we proceeded to the centre of the river, and were freed from the annoyance of our tormenting assailants; our bodies felt sore and inflamed, and our sleepless eyelids bore ample and frequent testimony to the effects of the disturbance. The provisions with which we had furnished ourselves at *Trinidad*, were ended, and the only food remaining was dried fish, so highly seasoned that to me it was not endurable, and Sugar-canes, the suction of which was scarcely

sufficient to keep soul and body together ; and such our ignorance of our conductor's language, that the frequent interrogatories served but to heighten our doubts as to when we should land. During the six hours flow of the tide, the boatmen sang and pulled hard with their sweeps or paddles, and during the six hours ebb they sucked their Sugar-canes with apparent satisfaction.

10th—The annoyance from the Musquitoes was little less than on the former night, but there was no rain. The picturesque scenery with which we were surrounded acquired an increasing interest, and at every curve in the river new beauties presented themselves. Casting anchor close to the bank, waiting the returning tide, one of the men caught three small but excellent fish, which we found a seasonable relief. *Mr. Jamieson* began to suffer considerably from an attack of Dysentery, which was increased by the quality of the food, and exposure to the rain ; and we had not so much as a drop of any kind of spirituous liquors on board, with which to relieve our sinking spirits.

11th—Every species of food was exhausted, with the exception of the Sugar-canes ; poor food for an European, though the Indians seemed content ! What would either *Jamieson* or I have now given for a single meal of Potatoes and salt ? One of the crew this day landed and shot a fowl, about the size of our common hen, which our hunger rendered highly palatable, though wholly unfit for the table of an epicure.

From this date to the 15th, we experienced a continuance of hard fare and ceaseless misery. Perish for want we could not so long as the Sugar-canes stood out ; and as for fresh water, we were surrounded with it. From the effects of the rain, we never were free ; in the intervals between the heavy showers we were obliged to endure the beams of a torrid sun ; and during the night our weary slumbers were interrupted by the stings of the unceasing Musquitoes.

We had now ascended the *Arac* upwards of 450 miles, nearly in fact, to its source ; as the banks rapidly began to approximate, and the waters became shallow. The features of the country had not decreased in richness and beauty ; the trees were of uncommon size, and clothed with perpetual verdure ; their branches were covered with an infinite variety of the feathered tribe, the beauty of whose plumage, and varied notes, gave pleasure to the eye and roused the attention. The ferocious inhabitants of the forest had not made any appearance on the shores, though during the night, our sleep was frequently interrupted by the howling of the Tiger, &c. &c.

All attempts to proceed farther were in vain, although assisted by a number of the natives, of a copper colour, who had come to the beach for that purpose ; their approach was announced some minutes before their actual appearance, by frequent shoutings, which were answered by our crew. The passage by water having thus termi-

nated, we prepared to encounter the mazes of an immense forest, apparently interminable, by which we were separated from *Maturin*, about 20 leagues distant; but we had already endured so much, that we were not to be deterred, either by the distance, dangers of the forest, nor season of the year, from pursuing our destined route.

16th—Before sun-rise this morning, we were busily employed in preparations for our dreary march. Our knapsacks were packed and securely fastened upon the shoulders of each; the swords slung around the neck; a belt drawn tight about the waist secured our pistols, which, with white trowsers and undress jacket completed our outfit. Our boats-crew, who were to accompany us, made signs that our shoes and stockings would be an incumbrance, an advice which we thought it prudent to reject; and having breakfasted upon the juice of the Sugar-cane, we began our journey, accoutred as we were. The rain, which had fallen in considerable quantities during the night, now descended in torrents, and in a few minutes we were completely drenched, and travelling in mud to the knees. The path we pursued through the woods, was that by which, in the dry season, cattle were driven from the interior of the country, for the purpose of exportation; but at present so acted upon by the rains, that it was frequently with difficulty we dragged ourselves along. Arriving on the banks of a considerable river, deep, with a rapid current, our faithful

companions volunteered to take charge of our luggage an offer which we gladly accepted, and swimming by our sides, landed them in safety, and free from wet, upon the opposite bank.

As we advanced, *Jamieson*, reduced by his late indisposition, began to lag, but hastened forward upon the discharge of one of our pieces at a young Tiger, which hastily crossed our path; this was the first I had yet seen, and though young, and of a small size, it made me feel that I was passing through an American forest, and certainly tended not to alleviate the unpleasantness of the journey. As the day advanced, our companions, more habituated to such wanderings, rapidly gained ground upon us; and to add to my uneasiness, Mr. *Jamieson*, whose strength had been gradually yielding, sunk to the ground, nor were all my efforts to rouse him to a sense of his danger attended with effect. I immediately unpacked our Boat-cloaks and wrapping him up, placed his knapsack beneath his head, hoped the best from the renovating powers of a few minutes sleep. As I watched his awaking, an Indian woman who had attached herself to our party and had fallen behind, now came up, and affected much surprized at our destitute situation; she awoke my friend, and, by signs, made us fully sensible of the inevitable destruction which awaited us, should we thus expose ourselves to the inroads of the wild beasts by which we were surrounded. We heard her as though we heard her not; for such was the



effects of the fatigue and rain, that we were unable to act, in pursuance of her advice. Pitying our condition, but anxious to provide for her own safety, she proceeded on her journey.

My mind was in a most agonized state, and my frightened imagination heard in the rustling of every leaf the wily approach of the ferocious tiger. Upon casting my eyes towards my fellow-sufferer, to my astonishment, I again perceived that he was insensible to all external impressions. Following his example, I became resigned, and laying my head upon my knapsack, attempted to compose myself, but found it impossible. I had lain in this afflicting position for nearly an hour, when my ears were gladdened with the shouts of some Indians, at a distance; and whether friend or foe, either appeared a relief from the prospect of certain destruction, which at present awaited us. As the sounds gained upon my ear, I roused my companion, and immediately afterwards our former friends appeared: this was indeed a joyous sight to me, who, but a few minutes before, had resigned myself to a miserable death. The female, who had previously looked on us with such compassionate kindness, now gave us to understand, that she had represented our forlorn condition to our former friends, and though somewhat wearied themselves, they obeyed the dictates of nature, and returned to relieve us from our dangers and difficulties.

Somewhat refreshed by the repose, and the circulation restored to our benumbed limbs, by brisk friction with the hands, we arose ; and our kind friends having laden themselves with our luggage, urged us forward. Notwithstanding their fatigue, the Indians again began to gain ground upon us, and again my countryman began to wax weary and faint. I endeavoured to rouse his lagging spirits, and by example, animate him to further exertion, but found it impossible ; he became still weaker and more depressed, and ultimately fell to the ground. Our friends had outstripped us, and what to do I knew not ; upon examination, I conjectured I perceived the pale hand of death spread over his countenance, and waited the result with the utmost anxiety ; by degrees the crimson blush of returning life, became perceptible, and I addressed him—" *Jamieson*," said I, as I covered him with his cloak, " I see it is quite impossible for you to proceed farther, in your present situation ; and as I cannot be of the slightest assistance to you, I will hasten to pursue the paths of our companions and solicit their return, that, even upon a litter, you may be conveyed to *Maturin*. He was unable to speak, but looked upon me with a countenance beaming with affection, and as he grasped me warmly by the hand, made a sign, that, ere my return, he should be no more. I left him ; and alone, weary and dispirited, pursued the footsteps of my companions ; but losing every trace, I feared that I had mistaken the path,

and stopping, called aloud in hopes of catching their attention, and arresting their progress. Musing, as I crawled along, forlorn and dejected, I ascended an elevated ground at some distance, hoping to obtain an extended view, but there was none ;—the intricate mazes of the forest were the only objects that were visible. I descended, and was soon delighted at having accidentally regained the path. In a short time a fire was observable at some distance. Emerging from the wood, I recognized around it my friendly Indians, and rushing forward, informed them of what I feared might be the fate of my comrade. I urged them, with tears, to commiserate his forlorn condition, and return to his assistance, but they were inexorable ; making signs that, when somewhat refreshed by repose, he would follow me. This opinion was correct, for after some time, I heard his voice echoing in the distance, and ere long he joined us. We met as friends who had long been separated, and reflecting upon his state when we parted, I was induced to augur a favorable termination to our journey. Cheered by the enlivening blaze before us, and the hilarity of our companions, we would have now felt tolerably comfortable, had not the pangs of hunger assailed us, for we had tasted nothing throughout the day, save a few berries picked up in the woods ; and our total ignorance of the road we had yet to compass ere we reached *Maturin*. About midnight the Indians left us, and we betook ourselves to rest upon the

long grass. The rain was incessant, and the Mosquitoes in active operation ; yet such was our fatigue that we slept some hours, unmindful of surrounding dangers, and unannoyed by the bites of our troublesome visitants.

17th—Awaking from our cheerless couch; the day served but to shew us the horrors of our situation ; buckling on our knapsacks we proceeded on our march. The forest from which we had emerged on the preceding night, still skirting the path over the plain, which we now crossed ; the grass was long and thin, having a dry and sour appearance ; the soil dry, and somewhat sandy. As we traversed this vast plain, our solitary reveries were uninterrupted ; the mind of *Jamieson*, in unison with my own, seemed absorbed in gloomy anticipations, or occupied with a retrospective glance at past endurances. A pad which we followed was our only guide ; and our prospect, for a distance of some miles, was only bounded by the forest with which the plain was surrounded ; and the view of which was occasionally interrupted by the interference of a small cluster of trees, agreeably dispersed over its surface.

Our journey, on the preceding day, through the woods, was accompanied with incessant rains, and our progress interrupted by rivers of various sizes, eleven of which we crossed in the course of the march ; but our circumstances on this day were equally unpleasant, and formed a perfect contrast with those of the foregoing. As we

crossed the plain, the heat of the sun was excessive, the deep, miry, and almost impassable road of yesterday, was exchanged for a dry sandy heath, and the thirst which accompanied our fatigue, was becoming insupportable, without the means of quenching it within our reach. As I reflected upon the peculiarity of my state I could not but exclaim in participation with the sufferings of a sacred penman, "In journeyings often, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils among false brethren, in perils in the sea; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness."

Having continued our walk for about three hours, we came to a circumscribed space, from the surface of which the grass had been burned, as if by a recent fire kindled by a travelling party of natives. In this idea we were confirmed by perceiving some scattered fragments of cassava bread, which we hastily collected and devoured with avidity; and, in truth, this was the first morsel of any thing like food, we had swallowed for many days. Conceiving that this spot would be deserted by the Musquitoes, we unbuckled our knapsacks and seated ourselves, to recruit our exhausted strength. Here we held a mournful consultation as to the distance we had yet to travel, not a little invigorated by the hope that

our Indian friends would announce our approach at *Maturin*, and that guides would be sent, with horses, to assist us in reaching the village ; as, from our weakness, through want of nourishment, we feared we should be unable to do so on foot ; concluding the distance still to be from three to four leagues. Thus ruminating upon our journey, we were horror-struck by the growling of a tiger in the wood, a few perches to the right of our path ; trembling, we gazed upon each other for a moment, and, as instinctively, seized our knapsacks, and struck along the path, with a speed, of which a few minutes before we seemed incapable. As we glided along, our eyes eagerly turned to the spot from whence the sounds had issued, we perceived our ferocious enemy slowly pacing among the trees, unconscious of the alarm he had created : we each seized a pistol and fired in the direction of where we saw him, but with uncertain aim ; he seemed startled at the sound, and deliberately retired within his covert. Not secure in our ideas of safety, we continued to urge forward, until the distant murmurings of the tiger were lost in the breeze.

Our last remaining effort seemed called into action, by what we conceived to be our imminent danger, and now that we had left it so far behind, the cause which produced it died away, and with it our partial excitation. Anxiously looking round for a spot, similar to that we had quitted, on which to repose our wearied limbs, we were de-

lighted with the discovery of a small pool of water, if a hole containing less than a pint is worthy the name, and though luke-warm, we knelt down and emptied it of its last drop. Considerably refreshed, even by this partial and tasteless beverage, we proceeded onwards until we reached some bushes, closely matted together, beneath which, having crept, we were completely sheltered from the piercing rays of the sun; here we lay for upwards of an hour, in expectation of the hoped-for aid, when I heard some shots fired at a distance; I asked *Jamieson* if he had heard them, but receiving no answer, I turned round, and perceived he was fast asleep. Having awoke him, we listened attentively, and soon found that I had not been deceived. As we had each a rifle-whistle, we sounded, and hallooed, but to no purpose; we had hoped they were the signals of a party sent in search of us, but still hearing them at intervals without approaching, we concluded that they proceeded from cattle-hunters, and resigned the hopes we had begun so warmly to cherish.

As our eyes were turned on the ground, not knowing what was to be done, I called the attention of my companion to some long stalks, growing near us, and which by our united strengths we pulled up; to those were attached a bulbous root, somewhat resembling a turnip, but as I was in the act of using my knife, hoping to assuage my excessive hunger, *Jamieson* caught my hand,

begging of me not to taste it, as from description, he was fearful it might be the cassava root, which, though when it has undergone a certain preparation, is eaten by the natives, yet, in its recent state, is considered poison of the most deleterious kind.

The sun was now descending, and I urged my comrade to rouse himself and attempt to make the best possible way onwards, as another night like that we had passed, would inevitably be fatal. We took our knapsacks, but exhausted nature sunk under the oppressive weight; throwing them upon the ground, we exchanged our undress jacket and shirt, which we had worn during the journey, (the trowsers, being an incumbrance, were flung away in passing through the wood the previous day,) for a clean shirt, dress jacket and trowsers; and placing the remainder of our luggage under the protection of a furr bush, we proceeded on our route. The weakness of *Jamieson* was perceptible in every step, until he again sunk upon the ground, and seeing his attempts to proceed fruitless, he urged me to go forward and leave him to his fate. I remonstrated with him, pointing out the short distance we had now to go, with the certainty of destruction attendant on delay; till, more dead than alive, I in a great degree dragged him along, and laid him by the side of a pool of water, providentially placed in our way, of which we both drank copiously, and felt comparatively renovated. In this



situation, rendered still more truly distressing by the exhaustion and debility of my friend, we sat for some time; when he again attempted to proceed. A few minutes afterwards, I discerned, within a quarter of a league, a cottage, the first I had seen, and as I had not heard of any village in our route, began to fear we had lost our way, particularly so, as by the calculation we had made, we conceived ourselves still distant from *Maturin* upwards of six miles. I pointed out to my companion, whose sufferings wholly engrossed his attention, the object which met my view. He gazed upon it for a moment, and clasping his hands together in extacy, exclaimed, "It is *Maturin*, I can distinctly see the smoke of the village." Our conjectures were soon verified by a rencontre with some natives who were driving a flock of cattle before them: they informed us, by signs, that our distance from the village was short. With this impetus JAMIESON in part forgot his debility, and we soon found ourselves at the termination of our arduous and fatiguing journey.

As we entered the village, our meagre, woe-bedizened countenances, and swollen eyes, proclaimed the starvation and fatigue we had undergone. We advanced towards a house, around the door of which we saw some English officers, by whom we were invited to enter, and eagerly partook of some fruit and rum sangaree; from these I found that our Indian friends had arrived in the morning, but had neglected to make appli-

cation for assistance to be sent forward to us. The opportune bounty of our brother officers, an hour's rest, which we really enjoyed ; and the cleansing which followed, and of which we stood so much in want, added to the change of circumstances, made us now feel that we were in the habitations of humanity, and forget the scenes of danger and affright through which we had so lately laboured.

MARINO, General of the army of the East, and to whom we had letters of introduction, was at *Cariaco*, near *Cumana* ; but, upon my introduction to Colonel WOODBERRY, adjutant-general of the British Legion, he, with that pleasing manner and address for which he is eminently conspicuous, took charge of them, and promised to have them forwarded immediately to the General. The kindness of this gentleman did not rest here, he provided us with comfortable quarters, those lately occupied by Colonel Low, and gave us an invitation to dine at the Field Officers' Mess, an invitation which we thankfully accepted.

Previous to the announcement of dinner, we were severally introduced to Colonel HARRISON, Majors DAVY, CARVER, and DITTON ; they received us most kindly, and after the usual compliments upon our safe arrival, we sat down to a substantial and elegant dinner, with the various et ceteras ; of the relish with which JAMIESON and I shared the bounty of our military brethren, I will not speak : suffice it to say, that the effect pro-

duced upon us, by the brilliantly illuminated room, the fashionable appearance of our messmates, the richness of the board, and the martial sounds proceeding from a full band, when contrasted with the situations we had filled for the last few days, and the companions with whom we were associated, made the whole appear more as a scene of the imagination, than one in which we were actual partakers. After enjoying a truly happy evening, we retired to our quarters, and took possession of a suspended cow-hide each, which supplied the places of hammocks, we resigned ourselves to sleep, satisfied of our security, and unconscious of any real cause of uneasiness.

19th. Before we had quitted our births this morning, after a comfortable nights repose, we received an invitation from Colonel Blosser, commander of the Legion, to spend the day at an Orange grove, about a mile distant from *Maturin*; the principal ladies of which were invited. After decorating our persons with the *remains* of our wardrobe, we joined some of the officers in the square, who pointed out a few of their female guests, already mounted, and eager to proceed. The group consisted of about twelve ladies, each mounted upon a mule; the side saddles were extremely high and awkward, most of them covered with morocco, and the dresses of the riders gay and fantastic. The signal being given, we started: as we approached our rendezvous, the passage was impeded by a small rapid stream, which, I was

told, was a continuance of the *Arac*, which we had ascended ; the ladies dismounting, we passed over in canoes, and to my surprise, the horses, plunging in, followed, with all the alacrity of water spaniels.

The grove, in which our several entertainments were served up, was formed of rows of Orange trees, about two hundred feet in length, forming by the intermixture of their branches at top, an arched hall, about twenty feet in width, almost impervious to the rain, and wholly so to the rays of the sun ; the sides and top were crowded with clusters of the ripe fruit, presenting a luxuriant appearance, surpassing in richness and beauty any thing I had ever beheld. The breakfast table was laid out for about thirty guests, in a style of elegance bordering upon eastern luxury and profusion ; it consisted of meats, variously dressed, Coffee, Chocolate, with a superabundance of fruits of every description. The ladies were lively, and exceedingly affable to such of our officers as could hold converse with them in their native tongue ; generally speaking, they were handsome and of a dark brown complexion, little inferior in point of whiteness to an European brunette, though scarcely so ruddy ; the eyes black and sparkling ; the eye-brows dark and finely pointed ; and the whole countenance agreeable and animated, though somewhat arch. On the conclusion of our repast they waltzed with the English officers, and with some of those composing the staff of General

MARINO, who were of our party. Hammocks were slung between the trees, in order to repose when the heat became oppressive, and were so constructed as to be constantly upon the swing, producing a current of air sufficient to fan and refresh the occupier. During the heat of the day the ladies bathed in the river we had passed in the morning, and their example was afterwards followed by some of the gentlemen of the party.

Soon after breakfast, Major CARVER kindly undertook to conduct us through the several parts of the plantation, of which the Orange grove forms one; it is the property of a Negro, who about ten years since had settled there, and with industry and assiduity cleared of its native trees, supplying their places with fruit trees, Indian corn, cocoa nut trees, pumpkins, yams, and every species of vegetable, suitable to the climate; increasing its value so considerably, that, were peace once established, it is calculated that it would be worth Forty Thousand Dollars. The articles of produce, upon which its owner principally calculated, were cocoa and Indian corn, which he forwarded to some of the West India Islands, and in return received Sugars, tobacco, or what was still more valuable, Cash.

On my returning from a long walk, the party were enjoying themselves singing and waltzing with the utmost hilarity; the music was excellent, equal in science to any British military band I had ever heard; indeed the situation was such as to make us relish the "dulcet sounds" in a much

greater degree than when parading the streets of an European town, or wandering amid the bustle and confusion of a modern ball-room. Dinner was announced and served up in a similarly superb style as breakfast; the country had been previously ransacked for variety, and the art of the French cooks was expended in the preparation of the several dishes. The cloth being removed "The Supreme Chief, BOLIVAR," was drunk with cheering, the band playing "See the conquering hero comes." "General DEVEREUX, and the Irish Legion," followed, tune "Patrick's day." As this toast was evidently intended as complimentary to my friend JAMIESON and myself, and drunk with an enthusiasm to which the surrounding woods bore testimony, I briefly returned thanks. "The memory of General ENGLISH" in solemn silence, was followed by a succession of others, until the shades of evening warned us of "the swiftness of the fleeting hour." About night-fall we returned to *Maturin*, having spent a day, which, in the estimation of all, amply repaid an age of suffering.

20th—We this morning breakfasted with the Field Officers, after which, being provided with mules, we retraced a path which we had last traversed under very different circumstances, in search of that part of our luggage, we were obliged, through exhaustion, to leave behind. These we found without the smallest difficulty, and returning, prepared to dine with Colonel LOPEZ. This venerable patriot had suffered more in the service

of the Republic, than any other individual then living, having lost all his children, innumerable friends, and a great part of his property, though he had still enough to entitle him to the character of the richest man in *Maturin*. He had an uncommon partiality to the English Legion, six of the officers of which he had inmates in his house, where they were supported in a style of luxury, unknown to any other residents of the town. My companion and I were welcomed in a more than usually friendly manner, and, as it afterwards appeared, if the partiality towards the English was great, the Irish was still more endeared to him. We spent a delightful evening with the old Colonel, who, before we parted, told us he would consider it one of the greatest insults ever offered him, if we did not make his house our home, during the remainder of our stay in this place; we promised to accede to his wishes, and parted, pleased with our reception, and delighted with the frankness and hospitality of our venerable host. From this time forward, our stay at *Maturin* was an uninterrupted succession of scenes of gaiety and festivity: it was pleasure without alloy.

During our stay here, a circumstance occurred, which, though of trivial note at the time, was on the eve of leading to consequences, unpleasant to Mr. JAMIESON, on our arrival at *Angustura*.—Colonel Low, not more from his urbanity and gentlemanly deportment, than his skill as a disciplinarian, and well tried courage in the field, had

deservedly become a favourite with each of those patriotic commanders, with whom he had associated ; to such an extent was this partiality manifested, that a degree of jealousy or envy began to be felt towards him by some of his brother officers of the English Legion. A report was in general circulation, grounded upon the statement of a private soldier, most unfavourable to the character of Colonel L. as an officer and a gentleman : as yet, these reports were only privately whispered ; but upon the arrival of JAMIESON, no sooner was it known that he was a native of *Athlone*, and from the immediate neighbourhood with Colonel L. than he was applied to, as to whether he had ever heard of the circumstances hinted at, so unfavourable to that gentleman, and having answered in the affirmative, a number of the officers of the Legion came to the resolution of placing the Colonel in *coventry*, upon his return to *Maturin*. It is but justice to that gentleman here to say, that this resolution was entered into in his absence ; and that the charge of which he was thus prematurely convicted, originated in a mistake, he having been taxed with a crime perpetrated by another, whose only similarity to him, was that in name. Upon our arrival in *Angustura*, I, owing to the illness of my friend, waited on Colonel Low, at his request, and in the name of Mr. J. made every apology that could be necessary ; and, previous to my departure, I had the honour of receiving particular attentions from the



Colonel, and of perceiving that the stigma, consequent on the misrepresentation, was wholly obliterated.

Sunday morning, November 29th, ere we had risen from our cow-hide hammocks, the door of our apartment was suddenly thrown open, and Colonel BLOSSET entering, handed me a letter, of which the following is a translation:—

“ *Cumana-core, Nov. 26th. 1819.*

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ I have this day heard of your arrival at *Maturin*, and have not only given every order to the Commander of the British Legion, to forward you to *Angustura*, with all possible convenience and dispatch; but have likewise written to the Government, representing the suit of Colonel MEADE, in the strongest terms, to their immediate consideration.

“ I am, Gentlemen, your servant,

MARINO.

“ To Captains ADAM and JAMIESON.”

The perusal of this letter, though it was the signal for parting from friends who had exercised towards us, in their fullest extent, the rights of hospitality, gave us infinite satisfaction; as it not only expedited our journey onwards, but acknowledged the rights granted by General DEVEREUX, in Ireland, to his several officers; and put to the blush the arguments of such as, doubting his authority *in tata*, had deserted the independent standard, and returned to their homes, to vent

their spleen and disappointment through the columns of venal journals, and circulate and establish their *cowardice* more permanently, through the medium of a five-penny pamphlet. This recognition of the claims of Colonel MEADE, and by the rank conferred, by him, on my companion and myself, was of still greater weight, when we considered that MARINO was second in command, and only bowed to the orders of BOLIVAR ; and that, although some partial jealousies might exist between them, he was not considered, by the Supreme Chief, as his inferior in courage, military skill, or political knowledge.

We were informed that, in obedience to the commands of the General, every thing would be in readiness for our departure upon the following morning. In the mean time we were occupied in perambulating the streets, and paying our final obeisance to the several individuals by whom we had been so kindly entertained. Our old friend, Colonel LOPEZ, regretted our departure, and as it was our last day at *Maturín*, told us he would make the evening pass as pleasantly as possible for us, by inviting as many of the Officers and Ladies whom we had formerly seen, as he could procure. In the course of the day I walked a short distance from town with a friend, to see the manner in which the land tortoise is procured by the natives. The grass in which the animals hide themselves, is long and screens them from observation, as well as it retards the hunter from his pursuit : it is, therefore,

fired, taking advantage of the direction of the breeze, which extends the conflagration, leaving the tortoise exposed, which is picked up at the convenience of the hunter. On my return I saw upwards of one hundred Indian women carrying arms, &c. from the stores, for the use of the Legion; they seemed of the lowest class of natives, and in a state of the utmost barbarity. They were low in stature, very ill made generally, short broad faces, flat noses, thick lips, weak eyes, and of a copper colour; these females were in an almost complete state of nature, having no covering whatever, with the exception of a piece of skin, about four inches square, which was tied around the loins, with a small string, and descended in front.

On my way to the house of the hospitable LOPEZ, finding myself thirsty, I accepted the invitation of an Officer, and stepped into his quarters. Upon a pallet, in a corner of the room, lay a Gentleman suffering under an attack of the ague; as he uncovered his head to salute me, I was shocked with the worn out appearance he presented; he informed me he had been in that situation for nearly seven months, and, during the whole of that time had not received the smallest portion of medicine, and was wholly dependant on the benevolence of the Officers of the garrison, for the small pittance which supported nature. He was a young man, and the remains of a most gentlemanly address and accomplished manners were perceptible, even in the

wretched situation in which he lay. It was his intention to proceed to *Trinidad*, as, by remaining in his present quarters, a short time must decide his fate. I lamented the situation of this young man exceedingly, and highly approving of his resolutions to leave *Maturin*, although it appeared impossible that his emaciated and reduced frame could ever endure the fatigues of such a journey ; gave him a letter of introduction to the philanthropic Dr. O'CONNOR, and bade him adieu, as I conceived, for ever.

At the house of Colonel LOPEZ I found a large party of the British and native Officers, some of our former female acquaintances, and several Priests. The dinner was even more sumptuous than usual, and comprised every species of fish, flesh, and fowl, which could be procured ; there was a great deficiency of vegetables, not having either potatoes, yams, or bread, as the flour was all expended, and the only substitute for which was *rapé* cake, a yellowish sort of bread, not unpleasant in its taste, made from Indian corn. A large dish of salt fish, highly seasoned, was the first placed upon the table, and to which each gentleman was helped ; upon the removal of each course, the same dish was again introduced, of which all were urged to partake ; this I soon found was to make us ply the bottle during dinner, which circulated most freely, and there was no evading the solicitations of our kind-hearted host. The evening was spent in waltzing, occasionally varied by the intro-

duction of English country dances, which the ladies enjoyed, and went through with considerable ease, having been under the special superintendence of some of the British Officers. After enjoying ourselves for some hours in the most pleasant and agreeable manner, we parted, giving a farewell salute to each of our fair friends.

The town or village of *Maturin*, in the province of *Venezuela*, is situated in  $7^{\circ} 34'$  N. latitude, and  $66^{\circ} 47'$  W. longitude, about 470 miles S. W. of the gulph of *Paria*, and distant from *Angustura* nearly 300 miles. In itself the village is inconsiderable, containing only from 6 to 700 inhabitants. The houses are built with tolerable regularity, one story high, forming a square, each side of which is about a furlong in length ; the centre is a fine sod, upon which the troops were wont to exercise. It is said that it was formerly a place of some importance, but at present there is not the smallest vestige of respectability in its appearance ; the huts presenting a most wretched aspect, are for the most part built of mud, though some few are of stone, and roofed with bamboo. Three strong forts surround the town in different directions ; these are built with stones and mud, and in shape resemble the martello towers which skirt the shores of *Great Britain*. On the top of each is a single pivot gun, one of which was pointed out to me, on the fort commanding an extensive plain, which fronts the village, as having committed more havoc among the Spanish soldiery than any other piece

in the republic. *Maturin* has been no less than three times destroyed by the Royalists ; yet there is no place that has so well withstood their shocks, nor wherein the Spaniards have suffered more severely ; the brass artillery with which the town is abundantly supplied, being brought to bear upon the enemy, committed the most dreadful ravages in their ranks.

Adjoining the square is a large unfinished building, resembling an English barn, without furniture ; this is the barrack of the English Legion ; the soldiers lie upon the ground, from which they are separated by a bullock or cow hide, their only bed. A similar building or barrack is erected within a quarter of a mile of the town, for the accommodation of the German Legion. The English Legion, which, upon its first landing on the shores of *South America* was so strong, has dwindled, chiefly by the effects of the climate, to about 400 men, including officers ; and about six weeks after the time of which I speak, when called upon to join General BOLIVAR, at *Santa Barbara*, there were but 233 effective men ; in fact, during my residence at *Maturin*, nearly one half of their numbers were confined to hospital, afflicted with the *Malditese*, a dreadful species of eating sore, which, if not duly attended to, and kept remarkably clean, increases in depth and extent of surface, and in the end becomes incurable. I have seen some of these miserable looking wretches, with the assistance of a couple of short sticks, and in a sitting

posture, drag themselves along in a most deplorable condition in search of their rations. The Officers, for the most part, enjoyed tolerable health ; but both Officers and men were in a wretched condition for want of clothing, having, as I was informed, been robbed of mostly all their luggage, by Admiral BRION ; and, as yet, had not received a supply of either clothing or money, from the Republican government. The want which seemed most regretted was that of shoes and stockings, a grievous one truly to Europeans, whose bare feet could ill endure the acrid surface of the earth, and the prickly brambles every where scattered about. The Subaltern Officers complained much, and justly, I believe, of the manner in which they had been treated by their Field Officers. A present of wines, rum, porter, flour, and other provisions had been forwarded to them, by the Merchants of *Trinidad*, for the use of the *Legion* ; and which the Field Officers, with a degree of selfishness bordering on inhumanity, appropriated to their own private use ; thereby depriving their fellow-soldiers and countrymen of some little comforts to which they were entitled, and had an equal claim ; this accounted to me for the superiority of their mess, when compared with the state of poverty to which I saw many other deserving young men reduced.

The German legion, under the command of Colonel *Usher*, had fallen away in equal proportion with the English, but had their numbers recruited

with supplies from *Margaritta* and *Barcelona*, at sundry times. The usual rations for officers, English and German, was 3 pounds of beef, and one half of a cassava cake, about two pounds weight each daily ; and for the men one half the quantity—a wretched allowance for troops in garrison, and in daily expectation of being called into actual service.

I shall here take notice of an act of brutality on the part of a native officer, whose name was unknown, but whose authority was recognised by the Supreme Chief. As I was one day standing in company with some officers, at the door of the Adjutant-general, I was informed of the arrival of a Patriot Colonel, a stranger, from the interior, and who had taken the command of the native troops. His first shew of authority, was by ordering some of *Marino's* guard of honour, into confinement for disrespect ; and, altogether, his character for arbitrary tyranny was soon manifested. He was pointed out to me as he was impressing men to man a fletcher for *Margaritta*, whither he was bound with dispatches from General *MARINO* to Admiral *BRION* ; he was a fine looking fellow, though with a considerable degree of ferocity of countenance. A decently dressed black man was, in passing, seized by him, and ordered into the ranks ; he remonstrated, declaring he was not an inhabitant of *South America*, but a British subject and a native of the *West India* Islands, and had come to *Maturin*, for purposes of traffic ; the only



answer which the tyrant made to this appeal to justice, was by an imprecation, accompanied with a blow from a stick which he held in his hand ; the Black was furious, but it was in vain to contend ; he begged permission to secure the merchandize he had brought, but was answered as before, with a second blow ; he then called shame ! shame ! for which he was saluted with a profusion of strokes, until his head and face were covered with blood. Several of our officers grumbled, but were averse to interfering with the native troops ; the unfortunate black again called, shame ! and was again attacked with redoubled fury. In the rage of the tyrannic colonel, he called for a sword, of which, if he had got possession, nothing, in my opinion, could have saved the life of the hapless black.

As we had risen early to make preparations for our departure, I was witness to a duel between Captain HAND and Lieutenant LYNCH, who had disputed the previous evening ; the ball of the latter took effect, passing through the back part of the right thigh, grazing the left, and taking with it, in its passage, the testes, which were completely cut away ; it was a dreadful wound, and little hopes were entertained of his recovery. I had the satisfaction, however, before I left the *Maine*, of hearing, that the danger was past, and that he was again able to move about.

Two horses were seized by the Guard, from the inhabitants, and saddles, holsters, &c. being pro-

vided from the stores, we mounted. Supplies of *tasso*, (slips of beef, dried), Cassava bread and rum, were prepared for our journey; and our venerable friend, Colonel LOPEZ, upon bidding us adieu, presented me with some dozens of Segars, and a canteen of rum. Having taken leave of the officers of the English legion, and returned them our most sincere thanks for the kindness which they had shewn us, JAMESON and I bade adieu to MATURIN, and were accompanied some distance on our way by Col. HARRISON and Major DAVY. Our guide was an elderly man, about sixty years of age, and mounted upon a mule; his dress was a blanket, with a hole cut in the centre, through which the head protruded, a small pair of cotton trowsers, and a handsome silver-hilted sword by his side; he was accompanied by a boy whom we supposed to be his son, he also was mounted upon a small mule, and driving before him another, heavily laden with two large boxes of merchandize, which he had brought from the village. After a ride of about five miles, we alighted on the banks of a small rivulet shaded from the sun by the spreading leaves of the Banyan tree; here we made the first breach in our canteen, taking a parting glass with the two officers who had so good-naturedly accompanied us thus far. Our journey during the day, was extremely pleasant, and the country beautiful; its plain surface was occasionally interspersed with wood, though not sufficiently thick, to offer any considerable obstacle to

our passage. As the evening drew near, we found ourselves on the brink of a considerable river, which we soon perceived was not fordable. After waiting nearly half an hour, two Indians approached in their canoe, and first landing our baggage upon the opposite side, carried us across, while our amphibious steeds jumped in and followed. On reaching the bank, I was a good deal surprised at seeing two well-looking and tastefully dressed females, sitting at the outside of a neat Bamboo cottage. They were extremely polite and affable, and wives, as I understood, of a colonel then serving under General MARINO. As we had no time for dalliance, we hastened forward.

Our path lay through a most beautiful and luxuriant plantation, by the side of the river, producing an exuberance of every species of vegetable of South American growth; the cocoa-nut trees frequently obstructed our way, and more than once bereft me of my lancers cap, and, at one time, actually deprived me of my seat in the saddle. As night began to set in, we both took a lodging in a hut, the hostess of which was swinging most comfortably in her hammock, but on seeing us she arose and gave us a kind reception. Taking off the saddles and bridles, the horses were turned into the woods; we entered the hut, and having dressed some part of the Tasso, made a hearty supper; after sharing some rum with our landlady, we spread our cloaks, and

placing the knapsacks under our heads, enjoyed a most comfortable night's rest.

A short descriptive sketch of the inhabitants of these plains, through which we were now passing, may not now be unacceptable to the generality of my readers. The *Llanos*, or plains of the desert, separate, throughout the whole distance, *Maturin* from *Angustura*, stretching, in an opposite direction, along the banks of the *Orinoco* and *Apure*, and, in the interior, terminate in wilds and forests hitherto unknown, and which from all we yet know, have no other lord of the soil than the brute creation who roam unmolested by the intrusion of the human race.

These plains are inhabited by a race of men called *Llaneros*, a mixed generation, the children of fathers, whether Criminals or Negroes, who had escaped from their masters, or fled from deserved punishment, and avoiding detection in these pathless plains, had formed intermarriages with the wandering hordes of Indians from the interior of the country. These descendants of former depredators are extremely strong and muscular in their appearance, and from earliest infancy trained up in the performance of the most athletic exercises. In the management of the horse they are peculiarly dexterous, vying with, in skill and activity, the crafty Arab, and in courage and savage ferocity, the most hardy among the Cos-sack tribe. During the greater part of the year, they reside in the plains, using the earth as their

hed, and the heavens for a canopy ; but, on the approach of the rainy season, when the *Orinoco* overflows its banks, they retire to the mountains, where they shield themselves from the inclemency of the weather by the erection of temporary huts.

The *Llaneros*, generally speaking, are low in stature, but stout built, and particularly broad across the shoulders ; their countenances rather pleasing, though marked with savage determination ; the small dark piercing eye, seems all on fire, when kindled by anger, or animated by revenge ; on the contrary, it speaks to the heart of the observer, when beaming with gratitude for favours conferred, as I have had twice an opportunity of witnessing. Their dress is that of the South-American Indians generally ; consisting of a blanket with an opening in the centre, for the head to pass through ; in addition to which, some of the principal chiefs wear loose trowsers of cotton or linen, or of such materials as by traffic or plunder they may become possessed. When they congregate for the night, a circular fire is lighted, around which they lay themselves down, wrapped in their blankets, secure from the attacks of the several beasts of prey.

In the pursuit of the tiger, which is their greatest enemy, they are particularly active. These animals, upon the Western Continent, are much inferior in strength and size to the Eastern Tiger, but by far surpass him in fierceness ;

heated by the quantities of animal food which he devours, he cools himself in the shade of his jungle, or reclines by the margin of a river, assuaging in its waters the intensity of his thirst ; hither he is sought by the dog of the Llanero huntsman and followed : the arms employed by the more dexterous in the destruction of the tiger, is a sharp pointed lance of hard wood, about seven feet in length, and a sword. As soon as his dog has run upon a true scent, he fearfully approaches his master, who cautiously advances, till within a few yards of the tiger, and then provokes him to the combat. Thus alarmed, the ferocious animal springs at the lance, which he grasps with one of his paws, and with the other aims a blow at the hunter, which he, with the swiftness of an arrow evades, and with a stroke of his sword, back handed, severs the hamstring of one of his legs. The animal enraged to madness, makes a second attempt, which is, in the same manner parried, while a second, and similar cut of the sword leaves him at the mercy of the conqueror, who cuts off his paws and bears them in triumph to his home.

The dexterity with which this warlike people use the lance and noose is almost incredible ; these constitute their chief means of attack and defence, and the latter they use with such certainty, that they can fix upon any animal at a distance of forty or fifty yards. The noose is fixed to a ring in the saddle, or should there be none, to the tail of the horse, and, at full gallop, they fix it upon their

enemy, man or beast, who is dragged along, and speedily overpowered. When a wild bull is thus noosed, the hunter follows him, and having cut short his race, by separating both hamstrings, he strikes the animal with his lance in the nape of the neck, which, penetrating the spinal marrow, immediately destroys life. The flesh is then cut in long thin stripes, which, dried in the sun, forms what I have called *tasso*, the most common food among the natives of *South America*.

The food of these people is the *tasso* and cassava bread, and their favorite beverage the *chica* and *garapo*; the former of which is very strong, and made of the Indian Rye, in a state of fermentation; the latter is sugar and water allowed to ferment, a pleasant drink, but which, by keeping, becomes excessively intoxicating, and, is eagerly sought after by the inhabitants of the plains.

The *Llaneros* are a bold courageous people, kind and hospitable to the strangers with whose nation or tribe they are on terms of amity, but revengeful and unforgiving towards such as have injured them. The Spaniards found infinite difficulty in overcoming this hardy race, and were never, properly speaking, secure from their inroads; every measure which art and cruelty could invent, was tried in vain to extirpate them from their native and favourite haunts; several acts of atrocity openly committed upon them by the Spaniards, were

repaid with usury, by the midnight scouts which ravaged the neighbouring villages ; and afterwards, upon the first open manifestation of the revolutionary spirit, they enlisted in vast numbers, under the Patriot Chieftain, BOBES, whose sanguinary disposition, suffered them, in the most ample manner, to gratify their hereditary vengeance upon their ancient foes and oppressors. It is impossible for me to follow the deeds of the Llaneros, separated from the general cause in which the revolutionists were engaged ; and as it is not my object to detail the several acts of atrocity which have marked the progress of the various campaigns, whether committed upon the Royalists by the savage barbarity of the natives, or exercised against the Patriots by those refinements of cruelty for which the Spaniards have long been notorious, I shall, therefore, drop the subject, and continue my journey to *Angustura*.

December 1st—At an early hour we rose and bathed in the river, and feeling exceedingly refreshed and comfortable, we strolled for some time along its banks. On the opposite side, from where we stood, was an immense wood, in which the men in whose house we stopped for the night were employed in hewing timber, and constructing a kind of bridge across the river ; it was an arduous task, and a considerable time must elapse ere it is completed. Our horses were saddled, and every thing ready for resuming our march, still our guide loitered, and seemed unwilling to proceed ; I soon



discovered the attraction that detained him, in a number of rapè cakes which were toasting before the fire, and were eyed by him with particular desire ; we were thus detained for nearly an hour, when his wishes were gratified, and he mounted his mule with alacrity. Travelling leisurely onwards, we saw upwards of one hundred horses swiftly approaching, attended by a troop of dragoons. The Captain instantly rode swiftly towards us, and demanded our passports, which we as readily produced. The horses were going to *Maturin*, for the use of the troops, and as the one on which Mr. JAMIESON rode was a sorry jade, I endeavoured to procure an exchange, but might, with as good success, have made my application to the banyan which shaded us from the sun. Throughout the whole of this day, we perceived no appearance of inhabitants, and the country was wholly destitute of cultivation. In the evening we came to a miserable shed, supported by three upright posts ; beneath it sat an old woman, and a parcel of naked children were playing about : shortly, however, a pair of stout well-looking girls came forward, carrying baskets filled with a sort of nut they had gathered in the forest ; these they pounded, and boiled, making a very palatable sort of food, which they readily shared with us. Here we rested for the night, and in the morning, having proceeded onwards about six miles, we found it impossible to pass a rapid river that impeded our

progress, and returning, took up our abode, for the second night, in the same quarters.

3d—It rained heavily this morning, and we feared much that the river would be still more swollen, and equally impassible, as on yesterday ; at all events we were determined to give it a trial. On our way we met a stout athletic Indian, whom our guide persuaded to return, and aided by a glass or two of rum, he succeeded in carrying over the whole of our luggage ; though the current was so rapid that it was with considerable difficulty JAMESON and I made the opposite bank : a glass of rum tended considerably to our refreshment, and we proceeded, amid torrents of rain. The country through which we were now passing was low and moist, and, at present, so cut up with the rains, that for miles together, our horses were wading in mud, sometimes up to the girths. After a very unpleasant ride, we alighted at rather a decent hut, and were amicably received by a woman and man inside. Four eggs, without the shell, were put down for us, in water highly seasoned, and which we found very palatable and nutritious ; these good natured people afterwards set before us bananas preserved in honey, which was excellent, and of which we made a hearty meal. Our host took a great fancy to my small carabine, but on finding that I could not part with it, he requested a little powder, and on getting it he seemed perfectly satisfied.

Here our guide left his boy and the baggage, and proceeded with us nearly three leagues, along a path still more swampy than that we had come along in the early part of the day; and which occasionally was so very bad, that not only the lives of the horses, but our own, were frequently endangered. We at last arrived at a small village, containing about six or eight tolerable huts, one of which, in appearance, was infinitely superior to the others. To this we rode up, and were instantly surrounded by a party of large dark coloured natives, each dressed with his blanket, and possessing a something military in his mien. These we soon discovered to be a party of the cavalry of General BERMUDEZ, and the hut, at which we stopped, the residence of their Captain, who now came towards us. In externals he differed but little from the soldiers composing his troop, except it were, that the texture of his blanket was superior, and his countenance was marked with a deeper shade of determination and ferocity. After holding a long conversation with our guide, during which we remained on horseback, he came forward and demanded our passports, which he scrutinized most minutely; we were then ordered to dismount, and were assisted by some of the troop, who vied with each other in paying us attention: one in particular, whom I afterwards discovered to be the Captain's brother, was particularly kind.

As our journey throughout the day had been excessively unpleasant, and our clothes completely

drenched with the rains, we stripped off our dripping garments, and dressed ourselves in the only change of clothing we possessed—our full dress regimentals. These were looked upon by the native troop with the utmost astonishment, and nothing could persuade them, but that we held a rank in the army superior to what we professed ; indeed, such was their admiration of the beauty of our dresses, that frequent attempts were made, during the night, to gain possession of them, but in which they were thwarted, as, so little did we value them, that they were used to supply the place of pillows, and thereby escaped the change of owners which was intended : they succeeded, however, in gaining possession of our calabash of rum, which, before morning, was drained to its last dreg. The Captain, with genuine hospitality, invited us to supper ; his table was provided with excellent boiled beef, plantains, and rapè cake, of which we made a plentiful repast ; his brother led us into the plantation, where there was tobacco, cocoa, &c. and shewed us the horses belonging to the troop ; they were smaller than the generality of European horses, but strongly put together, and capable of enduring an immensity of fatigue. This man also took a particular fancy to my carbine, and used every possible art to gain possession of it, but as it was so useful to me, I would not part with it.

General BERMUDEZ, with a part of whose forces we were now in company, is a man of desperate

character, the greater number of whose friends and relatives had fallen victims to the cruelly exercised power of the Royalists ; he has, therefore, sworn never to give quarters to a Spaniard, who may fall into his hands, without regarding any order of the Congress to the contrary ; and, as yet, he has kept his word. He is one of the oldest, and one of the most talented Generals in the service of the Republic ; highly esteemed by the Supreme Chief, and beloved by his soldiers. He is bordering on forty years of age, tall, and muscular, and extremely well proportioned. His colour is an olive brown, a broad good-natured face, with a great deal of affability when he smiles ; but the rolling of his dark eyes, his black hair, and long jet black mustachios, when a cloud obscures his visage, strongly mark the relentlessness of his disposition, when acting under the impulse of revenge. In this respect, there is a considerable degree of similarity among the several native chieftains.

4th—A new guide and fresh horses were this morning provided for us ; besides a good supply of fat tasso, and cassava bread by the Captain, who is also a commandant. Accompanied by the Captain's brother we set out, and after a few miles journeying came into a thicket or jungle, following the steps of our guide. A few minutes afterwards he suddenly stopped, and, in accents of terror, made known to us the approach of a tiger. We drew our pistols, and slowly and cautiously pro-

ceeded, when the ferocious animal bounded across our path, at the distance of a few yards ; we would have fired, but were restrained by the guide, who made signs to us, that the slightest wound would enrage the animal, who, returning, would wreak his vengeance upon all. How the guide was aware of the approach of the animal I could not discover ; but was made to understand that he had already feasted himself upon the carcases of some animals whom he had seized, and was retiring satisfied to his den. It was about this very spot, that, a few weeks before, a German officer and four men belonging to MARINO's guard of honour were attacked, all of whom were destroyed, with the exception of the officer, who saved himself by climbing a tree. A few minutes after our alarm, we found ourselves upon the banks of the *Tigris*, a noble river, which, I was told, empties itself into the *Orinoco*.

A difficulty now arose, in what manner we were to cross the river ; the sole means seemed to be by a canoe, and the only one we could discover was made fast to the bough of a tree on the opposite side, from which there was no person to bring it. Our friend endeavoured to prevail upon the guide, a young lad, not more than fifteen years of age, who belonged to General BERMUDEZ's cavalry, and bore on his body the marks of numerous lance wounds, to cross the river upon his mule, and fetch it, but all his threats and entreaties were, for a long time, of none effect : nor could this be a matter

of surprize to us, as the current ran fully six miles an hour. After considerable altercation and delay, he led the mule to the brink of the river and plunged him in, followed by my horse. A long time elapsed ere they reached the opposite bank, and their situation, at times, was perilous in the extreme; they arrived in safety, however, and the youth soon joined us in the canoe; into which we entered, and were safely conveyed across. Two hours riding brought us to a small bamboo cottage, where we breakfasted on broiled tasso and cassava bread. Our companion endeavoured to force the woman of the hut to provide a horse for the guide, but she was inexorable, alledging, as an excuse, that her husband was from home. Here he parted us, having again renewed his exertions to obtain the carabine; and secondly, when he found in this he was unsuccessful, he begged for a glass of rum; I handed him the canteen, a great part of the contents of which, he, without the least ceremony, transferred to his calabash, and bade us good bye. Our guide was now on foot, but nimbly led the way, through a beautiful country intersected with innumerable rivulets, of various sizes, most of which were rendered passable, by means of rude bridges, formed of the trunks of trees resting upon spikes driven into their several beds, and again crossed with branches in a horizontal direction; we found some difficulty in passing many of these as the water generally covered the surface. In the evening we rested at

the best hut I had yet seen, occupied by a Lieut. in the army of MARINO; we were treated most kindly, and had our choice of every thing his plantation afforded, which was highly cultivated.

5th—On rising we found that the rats had devoured the most of our cassava bread, but which was replenished by the bounty of our host. We this day entered upon the first barren tract of country we had yet seen; and for nearly three leagues passed over a fruitless, parched, sandy heath, whose only covering was a dry sickly-looking grass, and a few indigenous weeds. We suffered excessively for want of water, and about midnight, seeing no shelter whatever, rolled ourselves in our cloaks, and sought repose upon the ground.

6th—A part of our route, this day, was through a fine champagne country, still there was no appearance of shelter; at night we came to a wood where we purposed stopping; and as our guide was striking a light to keep the animal race at bay, our ears were stunned with a mixture of odd sounds, which we soon found proceeded from an innumerable host of baboons and monkeys, with which the branches of the trees were thickly clothed. JAMIESON brought one down with the carabine, which drove them from about us for the moment, but we were, during the night, excessively tormented with their screams, and the unceasing attempts which they made to steal such of our articles as they could lay hold of.



7th—We this day lost nearly two hours in pursuing a doe, which we, in vain, endeavoured to kill. We saw immense flocks of deer, and though our guide threw off his blanket, and on his hands and feet attempted to get near them, so wary were they, that all his, and our exertions were rendered fruitless. The country through which we were passing was extremely beautiful, consisting of plantations tastefully laid out, rivalling in appearance and beauty the domains of our richest European gentry. We saw several flocks of partridges, very tame, but much smaller in size than those of *Great-Britain*. As we stopped for the night, we were informed by our conductor, that we were within six leagues of the village of *Cucushana*, the residence of a commandant.

8th—We started this morning, about six o'clock, and beheld, in the distance, the immense woods which skirt the banks of the *Orinoco*; about eleven we were approaching the village of *Cucushana*, which lies in a valley, our entrance to which was obstructed by a high hill. Dismounting from our steeds, we, with considerable difficulty, ascended. At the top of the hill, is an immensity of huge stones, so disposed, that two men, could tumble them with complete success upon any force attempting to come forward. As this is the only entrance to the valley in which the village is situated, treachery alone can ever place it in the hands of an enemy. As we entered the valley, we saw a number of cottages, surrounded with the

most fruitful plantations. A clear pellucid stream flows through the centre, across which there is a rustic bridge, somewhat superior in workmanship to those we had before passed. Upon making enquiry, we were directed to the house of the commandant, to whom we delivered our passports, and also a letter of introduction, which had been given us, by the benevolent Colonel LOPEZ. The commandant received us with great kindness, and pointed out a pair of very fine hammocks, in which when we wished, we could swing with the greatest comfort. As we had eaten nothing for the entire day, we made our wants known, when there was placed before us, after an interval of about an hour, a single rape cake, and a small piece of salt fish, not exceeding an ounce in weight; as this was little more than a mouthful to each, we anxiously waited the arrival of dinner, which was served up in less than three hours, but was as scanty, and destitute of variety as our snack, and went but little way in satisfying the appetites of travellers who had eaten nothing for the entire of the day. CURASSI, the intendant, our present host, was a little old man, whom the cares of life had so weighed on, that his head and neck became depressed, leaving the whole burthen to be supported by the shoulders; a sharp, thin nose, separated a pair of large, vacant, grey eyes, which were surmounted with bushy eyebrows, the colour of which was scarcely discernable, through the mass of filth with which they were covered, and the change wrought

in their appearance by the hand of time ; altogether he had a countenance, that once seen, can never be effaced from the memory, and, that, bespoke more the gratification of self, than the promotion of the happiness of others ; his heart flowed not with the milk of human kindness, though ostentation sometimes broke through his usual habits, to the extent we had already seen.

Hunger, which we felt acutely, was only whetted by the tantalizing morsel of which we had partaken ; we started through the valley, in hopes of meeting with a more hospitable entertainer. The sun, was gradually disappearing behind the lofty hills, with which the valley was surrounded, on every side ; the rivulet slowly pursued its course, its " silent murmur," occasionally interrupted by the plunging of an Indian into the stream, while the trees which shaded its water seemed groaning under the weight of their fruit as they were slowly undulated by the evening breeze ; altogether presenting a landscape of the greatest interest, and which, notwithstanding the calls of hunger, we continued to gaze upon, for a considerable time. Slowly retracing our steps, we stopped to admire the artless gambols of a parcel of children, who were playing round the door of a neat hut, and were rewarded by its owner, with what was to us a noble feast, of Banyans and honey, with a portion of tobacco, which the mother of the children, with the greatest dexterity, twisted into segars. The shades of night reluctantly

drove us to our quarters, -where we passed a night as disagreeable as our dinner had been scanty, being constantly annoyed with the bleating of calves which occupied the same apartment with us, and our bodies lay a luxurious prey to the tormenting stings of the Musquitoes.

9th—We parted, without regret, in torrents of rain, from the inhospitable roof of the commandant of *Cucushana*, having seen an instance of the most miserable selfishness, for the first time, since we had traversed the wilds of *South America*. We had ridden a few miles, when we entered the maze of a large forest, and our ears were gratified with the distant murmurings of the long-looked for waters of the *Orinoco*, on the banks of which we soon arrived. The place of our embarkation was at hand, and we were within a single days sailing of *Angustura*, the seat of all our hopes, and the termination of all our privations and fatigue. We were all anxiety to proceed, as we received no stock of provisions from the miserly commandant, we did not, therefore, expect to partake of any nourishment, until the termination of our single days voyage.

The *Orinoco*, at the place where we were now waiting for the arrival of our canoe, was about one half league in breadth, and with an extremely rapid current. The scenery around was majestically grand, and magnificent ; the embosomed waters surrounded, as they seemed, by the land, appeared as a lake, in the surface of which a single flechera

was alone visible ; the margins closely wooded, and gradually ascending, until the tops of the highest hills were lost in the clouds ; the diversity of hill and dale, with the variety of tinge produced at every point by the sun, as he shot a stolen ray from the watery cloud in which he was obscured, all, all presented a scene on which the eye gazed with rapture, and, from the admiration of which, we were only called away by the approach of a canoe, with a solitary Indian on board ; the others we were told would join us a little higher up the river. As we were going to embark, I suggested to JAMIESON, the propriety of firing off the contents of our carabine, as it must have suffered from the effects of the late rains. In doing so, it burst, but providentially, without doing injury to either of us.

We proceeded slowly forward until we arrived at a spot where some Indian corn was planted ; here, pulling ashore, our boatman suddenly disappeared in the woods, and, as we sat, anxiously waiting his return, we had ample leisure to feast upon the grandeur of the surrounding prospect. In two hours, he returned alone, making signs for us to follow him, which we did, through several intricate passages, 'till our arrival at a very fine plantation. We entered a neat hut, where a pleasing female was sitting, surrounded by a fine family of children ; this plantation was strongly marked with the ravages of war, the Spaniards

having more than once, made a landing near this place, burning the cottages, and destroying the plantation, leaving the place in a state of desolation, which the industry of the present inhabitants had but partially repaired. The female on perceiving us, set about preparing some eggs and vegetables, on which we feasted luxuriously. The men who were to row us up the *Orinoco*, had not, as yet, made their appearance ; we soon found, therefore, that instead of proceeding to our final destination, we were necessitated to take our quarters for the night, in the place where we were. A grievous disappointment truly, but to which we were somewhat reconciled by the attentions of the hostess, and an excellent supper of fish —

10th.—Our three boatmen roused us by day-break, and our kind hostess, not only provided us with rapè cakes for our voyage, but gave us an unusually fine breakfast of boiled fowl and chocolate, after which, we entered the canoe, and got under weigh. The various meanderings of the river opened to our view new beauties, each, vying with the other in extent and variety ; the banks on each side, became more elevated, and, were deeply furrowed or indented by the washing of the waters in their rise and fall. It is not the least singular feature in the history of this magnificent river, that it rises and falls annually to a height of *ninety feet*, perpendicular ! occupying a space of six months, from its commencement, ere

it rises to its greatest elevation, and taking up an equal time in the disgorge ment of its superabundant waters. The current ran with a rapidity, which, in the centre, we should have found it impossible to stem ; we therefore kept close to the side, and, taking advantage of the eddy, proceeded, with tolerable swiftness ; our position was by no means the most comfortable, as we were squeezed together, and the slightest motion would have been attended with the risk of an upset. As the evening advanced, the appearance of the country, on each side, became changed ; the immense forests, the extent of which were beyond the limits of vision were exchanged for highly cultivated plantations, the varied beauties of which were a source of pleasure and amusement, until as the view was lost in the distant woods, our straining eyes were gratified with the distant view of *Angustura*.

We now urged our conductors to ply their paddles, and land us on the wished for shore, before it was completely dark, but their strength was exhausted, by the previous labours of the day, and our persuasions could not induce them to attempt crossing the river, the current of which was still very strong ; so that JAMIESON and I had the mortification of finding ourselves within view of our long, and arduously sought for destination, yet obliged to pass another night in a wretched hut on the opposite bank of the *Orinoco*.

*Angustura*, as it met our sight, seemed a very

fine city ; it is seated on the declivity of a hill, which gradually rises from the side of the river, ascending, as it retreats, for about half a mile. The miserable wretches with whom we were obliged to take up our abode for the night, received us with hospitality, and placed before us some excellent coffee, and a dish of eggs. As the night advanced, we removed our luggage from the canoe, and wrapping ourselves up in our boat cloaks, once more stretched ourselves upon the earth to dream of the events of the coming day.

11th—Sunrise again saw us upon the waters of the Orinoco, and after some severe labour, we landed upon the bank, on which is situated the city of *Angustura*. As we ascended, we were met by an officer in the English uniform—it was Col. STOFFORD, of the British legion, to whom we had a letter of introduction. We were first introduced by him to the Minister of War, to whom we delivered our despatches, and were desired to attend upon him every succeeding morning. Our next introduction was to General MONTILLO, to whom we likewise had letters ; MONTILLO was governor of *Angustura* : We were then conducted by the friendly Colonel, to his own lodgings in the house of Mr. HAMILTON, where we breakfasted on eggs, coffee, tea, and rape cake, there being no flour, at that time in the city. After breakfast, we waited on the political governor, from whom we demanded quarters, and the regular rations ; by him we were severally introduced to a Captain



THOMS, who belonged to the guard of honour of General PAEZ ; he kindly offered to share his quarters with us, and forthwith conducted us thither. The house was situated in the centre of the town, and was only one story high : It was separated into two apartments, the larger of which occupied the front, facing the street ; the other was in the rear of the house, and both were floored with tile. In one corner of the front room was a hammock, and, in another, a table, the frame of which was unplanned, and the leaf covered with a hide drawn tight, and nailed down on every side. Upon the table stood some limes, and a couple of calabashes ; and these constituted the entire furniture of the quarters for three officers. I took a swing in the hammock, and was entering into conversation with Captain THOMS, when we were interrupted by the entrance of an officer, in a richly embroidered dress jacket, with a large white hat, mounted with the patriot cockade : he was a little lame, but with rather a handsome face. As he approached JAMIESON and myself, he took a hand of each, and shaking them warmly, welcomed us to *Angustura*. He spoke of the extreme pleasure it gave him in seeing one of his own countrymen ; told us his name was MARTIN ; that he had been an officer in the Republican service upwards of eleven years ; and had been lately wounded at *Cumana* : that, notwithstanding he had been married a considerable time, he had only on the preceding night, discovered his father-in-law, in

Signor CARDOZA, one of the first members of the Congress, from whom he now came with an invitation to us for dinner ; which we all gladly accepted.

This MARTIN was a singular compound of eccentric humour, and low chicanery ; of insinuating address and demeanour ; profuse and extravagant ; passionate and ardent in the cause of a friend, to serve whom he would commit the most imprudent actions, with as much eagerness as if the future prosperity of his life depended upon the success of his exertions ; and what was of infinite consequence in the promotion of his fortunes, and the success of his schemes, was his thorough acquaintance with the Spanish language. He had met and married the natural daughter of CARPOZA at *Trinidad*, and about seven years prior to this period, was brought a prisoner to *Angustura*, by the Spaniards, in whose possession it then was. CARDOZA saw him, and by a singular coincidence of intuitive knowledge, felt an uncommon interest in his fate ; and without being aware of any degree of consanguinity, stood forward as his protector, and rescued him from impending danger. We were received by the old gentleman with the greatest friendship ; he expressed extreme kindness for us on account of his son-in-law ; enquired the cause of our coming to *Angustura*, which, having heard, he promised to have our dispatches translated the following day, and to forward our wishes by every possible means in his

power. The dinner was sumptuous, and the wines excellent ; owing to a dispute which arose between Captain THOMs and Lieutenant MARTIN, relative to the interpretation of some of our expressions, the harmony of the evening was interrupted, and we separated at a much earlier hour than we otherwise would have done. We afterwards adjourned to the tavern, which is very spacious, and superbly fitted up ; here we had a cup of excellent chocolate, and a small sweet cake, for which we paid a *picetto*, about six pence English. In one part of this tavern is the gaming table, around which there were upwards of fifty of the native officers, who made a vast display of doubloons and dollars, and betted extremely high. Seated at the table, I saw Generals SOUBLER and VALDES, the latter of whom was one of the greatest gamblers in the city. After visiting the billiard table, which is different from those in Ireland, only in the manner of marking the game, we retired to our quarters.

12th—About nine o'clock this morning, our rations were brought to us, consisting of about four pounds of beef for each. Upon asking THOMs, in what manner it was to be dressed, or what we were to eat with it, we were informed, that unless he could prevail on some good-natured fellow to assist him, he was obliged himself to look in the neighbouring forest for fuel to dress his meat, and as for bread or vegetables, they must be done without, unless we could contrive to cozen some of the

native merchants. I had long looked forward, during my fatiguing journey, to a termination of my hardships and privations, at *Angustura* ; but judge my disappointment on finding that a portion of raw flesh meat, and an unfurnished shelter were the only provisions made by the government for the support and comfort of the officers. Much vexed and fretted, I waited on the minister of War, and begged him to consider that my companion and I were Britons, and unused to such treatment ; and that we had risked our fortunes and our lives in support of that cause for which he was so anxious, and of that Government of which he was a member ; that after undergoing privations and fatigue, at the imminent hazard of our lives, dangers from which many of our former and cowardly companions had retreated in affright, we were now, on our arrival at the seat of Government, to be served with rations which we could not use, and submit to degradations beneath the characters we should support as officers in the service of the South American Republic ; and appealed to the justice of the Congress for the necessary orders to be issued for our proper accommodation. After considerable shuffling, I obtained from him a letter to the political governor, (an officer who has the regulation of the affairs of the army as to quarters, rations, &c ) desiring him to provide us with a servant, and with bread, rum, tobacco, &c. as the circumstances of the day would afford. The former of these orders was complied with, but it

unfortunately for us, happened that the circumstances of the day were never such as to afford us any supply of the latter articles ; as during our residence in *Augustura*, we never received any other supplies, though a short time before our arrival, the rations served out to the army, were not only abundant in quantity, but excellent in the quality and variety of *materiel*.

From this day forward, for a considerable time our lives presented a new, and, altogether a novel scene. Cash was a stranger to each of our pockets, and to live on beef alone, we found nearly impossible : It therefore was a matter of necessity for us to exist as much as we could upon the native inhabitants ; and, in doing so, we found Lieutenant MARTIN a powerful auxiliary. This gentleman, in reality, felt more for our situation than for his own ; he had been long naturalized to the climate and could better put up with the privations to which the present chequered life of warfare was so subject ; his knowledge of the language also gave him a most decided superiority over us ; and rendered the credulous natives more open to the wiles which he found it necessary to practice on them. No sooner did morning arrive than he hopped from his shelter, to which he seldom returned empty handed. JAMIESON and I, he represented, as men of high rank and fortune in our native country, and, who were only waiting for supplies from home, to appear in the style to which we had been accustomed ; the splendour of our

uniform, made this assertion appear more than problematic. A number of Muscovy cocks and hens, belonging to the natives, as they wandered through the streets in search of food, sometimes chanced to wander into our quarters, where, indeed, they were welcomed and owing to the partiality of our provident friend, for a well-dressed fowl, soon graced our table.

The following anecdote will more plainly bespeak the effrontery of our new acquaintance, than any thing I could say of him. One morning Captain THOMS and I were sitting upon our table waiting the result of a foraging expedition, on which Messrs. MARTIN and JAMIESON had set out; when two ladies, the wife and daughter of an English officer, DODSON, who had come to *Angustura* with Colonel HIPPLESLEY, walked into our apartment: they enquired if Lieutenant MARTIN lodged with us, and being answered in the affirmative, sat down to wait his return. The elder lady said she had been used very badly by him, relating the following circumstances. Upon the arrival of Mr. JAMIESON and I, Mr. MARTIN was anxious to wait upon us, but would not think of making a first appearance in the ragged garb which was his only store. He had heard that Mrs. DODSON had a very handsome embroidered coat, of which she wished to dispose; and, as he considered this would exactly answer him, he was determined to make it his own, although not master of a single dollar. Summoning up his whole

stock of confidence, and having a considerable share of eloquence, he waited upon the lady ; expressed the satisfaction he should have, at all times, in serving her ; had heard that she had a regimental coat, with which she meant to part ; and lastly mentioned, that a rich Creole officer, who had just arrived, would, if it pleased him, give her twenty-five dollars for it. The poor woman, gulled by his plausibility, readily gave him the coat, with many expressions of gratitude. He hied him to the nearest hut, and mounting it, waited on us.

The ladies waited nearly an hour, before their customer made his appearance, which he did with a bottle of wine in each hand, the fruit of his morning exertions. I earnestly watched his countenance, as he entered, to witness whether it would experience any change, when he would perceive who were his visitors, but to my surprise saw it unaltered, the placid smile remained unruffled, as he hastened towards them ; grasping the hand of each, after the usual compliments of the morning, he begged they would be seated, and it was but the work of a moment to uncork one of the bottles, and hand the ladies a glass of wine. He made a thousand apologies for not calling on them sooner, but declared that in half an hour he should have that pleasure, and settle their trifling demand honorably. The ladies, however, were not to be, a second time, the dupes of his artifices, and being warmly seconded by

Captain **PHELAN**, an Irish officer who now entered, they insisted on his immediately throwing off his surreptitious garb, and restoring it to them. This he strenuously opposed, assuring them he would not think of treating them in so ungracious a manner, after the length of time he had worn it, requested them to trust to his honour, but it was all useless, the ladies became outrageous, and **MARTIN** reluctantly was obliged to give up the contest after a hard struggle of half an hour.

He was now obliged to have recourse to my wardrobe, and I gave him a tolerable jacket in which I had travelled, and which served to reconcile to him his late deprivation.

My friend and fellow-traveller Captain **JAMIESON**, had never recovered the effects of the indisposition caught in the passage up the *Arac*, and was now suddenly attacked with the most severe symptoms of fever ; whilst I much about the same time was seized with fever and ague. We were both carried to the hospital, within a half a mile of the town ; a large roomy inconvenient building, which had formerly been a convent, but which was converted to a different purpose since the commencement of the war. The room in which we were placed was sufficiently capacious to have accommodated fifty or sixty diseased persons, though at this period, its only inmates were six of the native officers. Small pallets were made for us on the floor, and we felt particularly uncomfortable that there was no person around us, who under-



stood our native language, not even the medical men who attended. JAMIESON continued to get worse throughout the night ; his cries for water were incessant, and heart-rending, and I was unable to afford him any relief. About midnight he was seized with the black vomit, and, as the morning dawned, his pallid countenance bore unequivocal marks of the hand of death. I had lain by him during the entire of the night, and as I gazed upon his ghastly features, by the morning's light, I grasping his cold hand, spoke to him: I told him he was dying, and asked if he had any thing to communicate, or any wishes which, if I survived, I would convey to his relations ; a convulsive shudder agitated his emaciated frame, he caught me by the hand, and, gazed steadily and anxiously upon my face, but his powers of utterance were fled from him for ever.

About eight o'clock the Spanish doctor entered, and looking upon my expiring friend, he spoke to his attendants, who, seizing hold of the pallet on which he lay, carried him from the apartment. I soon followed, and found him in a small cell, below the surface of the ground to which they had conveyed him, to prevent the spread of infection. A small grating admitted a full ray of light, by which I was enabled to mark the final struggles of exhausted nature ; the cold and gloomy aspect of the subterranean chamber, added to the melancholy picture ; while the awful silence was alone interrupted by the restless shrug, or reiterated

moan of the sufferer. A few minutes after I entered—he expired ;—the final struggle was terminated, and my companion through distress, sorrow, and privation, was no more.—I gazed upon the lifeless corpse, and as my eyes met his pale and constricted features, still agitated by the intensity of his sufferings, I thought of the moments of pleasure and revelry, when around the festive board, in our native isle, we had anticipated honours and reward on the South American plains ; I remembered our first meeting, in a Dublin tavern, and recalled, as he sung a native Irish strain, in the original language, those happy smiling features, now so changed ; I shuddered, as I looked upon him for the last time, and sighed when I reflected that a few hours might also place me on the silent bed of death.

Though faint and sick at heart, I made a final struggle to wait upon the political governor, and told him the fate of my companion. I begged, that as he was the first officer of the Irish legion who had died on the *Maine*, all possible respect should be paid to his interment ; with considerable difficulty, I prevailed upon him to issue his orders ; which, having obtained, I procured the band, and a large party of the military, with whom I returned to the hospital. The body was placed upon a door, and hastily conveyed to the silent tomb ; three rounds of musquetry terminated the mournful ceremony ; and the remains of Captain

JAMIESON were left to mingle with their kindred earth.

The military had retired, and the grave was deserted by all but myself ; " a tear dimm'd my eye " as I reflected that the silent grave had closed upon the only valued friend, I had in that country,—the partner in my toils, and sharer in my adventures. *Angustura*, to which he had looked as the termination of his difficulties, had yielded him a grave, putting a final stop to all his cares. As I indulged in the excess of my grief, I felt the ague slowly creeping over me, and hastily returned to my solitary pallet. As I lay labouring under one of these severe fits, Captain PHELAN, who had heard a report of the late melancholy event, hastened to the hospital, to hear its confirmation, and witness my sufferings. He caught me by the hand, and regretted the fate of my late friend, whose end was hastened by a total want of care and attention. " As soon " said he, " as you shake off this fit, you shall leave this detested spot, and return with me to my own house, where Mrs. P. and I will watch over you, until your health is completely restored." These were indeed joyful tidings to me, and I could not but feel that Providence had raised me up a friend in the time of my distress.

Captain PHELAN had served in the Artillery in *St Helena*, for nearly eleven years ; he was born near *Thomastown* in Ireland, and joined the service of the Independents, about three

years before the period of which I speak. Upon his arrival in *Angustura*, he was billeted in the house where there resided a young, rich, and amiable Spanish lady, who spoke the English language fluently; a mutual attachment was the consequence, which terminated in their marriage; and to this happy couple am I indebted for the preservation of my life. My condition was wholly changed,—want and misery gave place to comfort and abundance. A chamber, with a most comfortable hammock, was allotted me; and every sort of delicacy the city afforded was provided to forward my recovery. The captain and his lady seemed to vie with each other, which would be most attentive, and during the time I was in his house, he visited me like a child, three or four times throughout the night.

As I was one morning, soon after day break, lying in my hammock, enjoying a cup of coffee, in company with my generous host, our ears were suddenly assailed with a heavy discharge of artillery, the animated strains of the regimental bands, ringing of bells, &c. *PHELAN* started and ran out to enquire the cause, and, in a few minutes returned, joy sparkling in his countenance. He informed me that *BOLIVAR*, the supreme chief, was within a few miles of *Angustura*, and in less than an hour would land. I hastily dressed myself, and leaning upon the arm of my friend, proceeded to the beach, where I witnessed the triumphal entry of that great man, after the taking of *Santa Fe*,

from which place he had just now landed, after a passage of twenty-eight days, down the rivers *Apure* and *Orinoco* ; this voyage in any other season of the year, and in the common fletcheras, is one of some months ; but the chieftain voyaged in his own canoe, impelled by the paddles of twenty-four athletic natives, with a velocity almost incredible.

About six hours after his arrival, the supreme chief held a levee at the residence of General SANTANDAR, to which PHELAN and I repaired, in full uniform. He seemed well acquainted with my friend, and upon my introduction, stretched forth his hand, in all the sincerity of friendship ; he spoke of the pleasure it gave him to see an officer of the Irish Legion, whose efforts in coming forward in the cause of independence, he duly appreciated, and on whose exertions and courage he relied with the most confident hope. He expressed his regret at the want of accommodation experienced by the officers of the Irish Legion, upon their first arrival ; but attributed much of their feeling to inexperience ; and trusted that though the situation of the war for the present, led to innumerable privations, perseverance in the cause would ultimately lead to success and a full compensation for past endurances.

It is impossible for me to pourtray the feelings with which I was affected as I listened to the friendly address of the General ; I felt that I was in the presence of him who was the restorer of his coun-

try's independence, and on whose zeal and ability were founded the hopes of so many of my friends and countrymen ; I surveyed him attentively, and with all the powers of which I was master, attempted to fathom the character of this great man.

Much has been said of him, and the various authors who have drawn his character have been influenced by selfish hostility, or sought to gain his favour by servile adulation. I shall attempt to delineate his appearance, and briefly sketch his accomplishments, as I have witnessed them uninfluenced by the extremes of hatred or love, and with a strict reliance upon justice and truth.

I have no object to accomplish, no spleen to gratify.

SIMON BOLIVAR, the supreme chief of the republic of Columbia, is somewhat about forty-five years of age, though his appearance is that of a man farther advanced in years. There is nothing particularly striking in his figure, but his strongly marked features are peculiarly indicative of that courage and determination for which he is so remarkable.

In stature he is about five feet seven inches, rather thin in flesh, but straight and sinewy. His visage is long and sallow, and bears the traces of deep thought, and unceasing anxiety, consequent on the arduous duties he has to regulate and fulfil. His hair is long and dark, and, as it flows over his shoulders, confined by a ribband ; eyes dark and piercing ; and whether beaming with benignity, or kindling under the effects of passion, they

betray the natural firmness and determination of his mind ; his eyebrows are dark, with an intermixture of grey hairs, which, when viewed with the large black mustachios, on his upper lip, give to the face a degree of ferocity, of which, were it wholly deprived of the latter, and the former to undergo a little trimming, it would be wholly destitute. His nose is long and thin, rather inclined to the aquiline cheek bones high, and his chin long, and pointed ; his forehead is high and round, and gives a character to the rest of the face, for talent and intensity of thought. His general appearance is that of a man whose mind was constantly upon the stretch to achieve some grand object, in the accomplishment of which he was not to be retarded by the interference of minor obstacles ; and his body bore evident traces of the zeal and assiduity with which he laboured, regardless of privation or bodily fatigue.

He speaks little, and generally appears absorbed in reflection. His directions are issued with clearness and precision, and the full marked tone of voice, in which they are given, are in themselves sufficient to convince the person to whom they are directed, that they must be obeyed.

His projects are aptly conceived, and executed with promptitude ; the greater concerns of the republic, wholly absorb his attention, the minor ones are left to his inferior officers, who but too frequently neglect their duties, or execute them with a partiality, in no wise allied to justice.

He is remarkable for personal courage ; at all times rushing into the midst of the conflict, animating, by his example, the spirit of his followers. The sanguinary model afforded him by the Spaniards, has ever made him careless of the quantum of blood spilt ; and he acquiesces in the retaliation which is exercised on such prisoners as fall into the hands of the Independents : he has even been a witness, on many occasions, to the execution of some of the unfortunates who have fallen into the hands of his troops. But in the exercise of this recriminative murder, the Patriot army fall far short of the refined cruelties practised upon them by the Spaniards, under the command of the blood-thirsty MORILLO.

His skill in military tactics is far inferior to that in practice in European or civilized states ; but when exercised in the country which has been so long the seat of revolutionary warfare, he has shewn a knowledge of his own resources, and of those positions in which he could bring his soldiers to act with the greatest success against the Spaniards. He is very deficient in his knowledge of the manœuvres of a regular army in the field, but is thoroughly acquainted with the plans necessary to defeat the enemy in the recesses on the plains. He has often been defeated in his attacks upon regularly fortified towns, but has been generally successful when engaged with the enemy in the open battle. His native troops are bold and courageous, and rush upon the Spanish soldiery with all



the feelings of hatred and revenge. The intercourse and regulation consequent on the introduction of the British and German Legions, have already been attended with marked symptoms of improvement in the Independent army.

BOLIVAR is a native of the *Caraccas*, of a good family, and was possessed of a very considerable share of landed property. On the delivery of the country to the Spaniards in 1812, he, after having liberated his numerous slaves, emigrated, with many others, to the island of *Curacoa*, from whence he proceeded to *Carthagera*, and having obtained from the Congress at *New Grenada*, a division of six hundred men, he crossed the *Andes*, and commenced his career of glory in the province of *Venezuela*. He was soon joined by an immense army, and has since suffered several reverses of fortune ; but steadily pursuing the accomplishment of his wishes, he perseveres, and the cause of freedom and independence is rapidly triumphing over the slavish tyranny in which his countrymen were bound by the Spaniards.

The following anecdote of this extraordinary man will not be considered out of place. When he first planned the emancipation of his country, independent of his property in territory and slaves, he had a vast quantity of gold. He clearly foresaw the vicissitudes of the warfare would be such, at the first onset, that did he attempt to carry it with him, it would be but to deliver it into the hands

of his enemies. Fired with this idea, and well judging it might one day be in part the means of freeing his country, yet afraid to trust a human being, he chose from his numerous slaves, four of the most worthless : these, in the dead of night, he led to the most sequestered part of the forest, caused them to dig a pit, and there deposited his treasure ; ere the morning dawned, the task was finished. Fearful of discovery, before human being ever again spoke to them, his guard was called forth, and they were made the innocent victims to their country's freedom. After various vicissitudes, and a long lapse of time, the *Caraccas* falling into the hands of the Independents, the treasure was found by him as it was left, and was devoted to the use he intended, when it was first buried.

The day after his arrival at *Angustura*, I went to the congress, and heard him propose the junction of the States of *Venezuela* and *New Grenada*, under the denomination of the republic of *New Columbia*. His voice was bold, strong, and clear ; he spoke with fluency ; his attitude was easy, and his action graceful. He, in a summary manner, reviewed the forms of government of the several European Nations, and the republican form of the *United States* ; pointing out, with the most acute discrimination, the several defects and beauties in each, and recommended a form, uniting in its arrangements, and principally extracted from, those of *Great Britain* and the *United States*. In making the several details, he clearly proved that

his was no partial or inaccurate survey, but one founded on actual observation and research ; he having visited *France, Spain, England* and *North America*, and studied the manners of their several inhabitants, and the mode of administering the laws. The French and English languages he understood, and spoke the former with fluency ; and as he entered into the various statements of the objects which the Congress should have in view, in their different enactments, his auditors could not but feel, that they were in the presence of BOLIVAR. I felt it most strongly, and , as I looked upon the animated countenance of the chieftain, I conceived that he alone could have succeeded in the hazardous attempt which was soon to be completed.

*Angustura* now became a scene of the utmost festivity ; ball succeeded ball, and entertainments in honour of the Supreme chief, were the order of the day : every one appeared happy ; each face that presented itself was clothed with smiles ; the ravages and terrors of war were forgotten, and pleasure at the release from thralldom was universal. But by far the most splendid, and indeed the first public entertainment given to BOLIVAR, was that by the British merchants, and to which the members of Congress, the military, and respectable merchants were invited. Dinner was served up with the greatest possible splendour ; no expense was spared in procuring every thing that was rare, and could add to the luxury of the board, or gratify the appetite of the greatest epicure.

The cloth being removed, the health of the "Supreme Chief," was drank with the greatest enthusiasm ; he briefly, but in strongly emphatic language, gave utterance to his feelings, on an occasion the most joyous in his life ;—the arms of the Patriots had been again triumphant over their oppressors, and, to be thus received by his countrymen, fellow-citizens, and soldiers, could not add to his zeal in prosecuting the cause in which all were equally interested, but served to shew him more strongly the value of that freedom which they sought, and the oppressive weight of those bonds with which they had been entwined, and from the trammels of which, they were now fast emerging. The cause of the Independents of *South America* had not been suffered to droop ; its spirit had been cherished by those to whom the value of liberty was known ; many of the European States had come forward in their cause ; *England* had its Legion, and *Ireland* had raised its army ; with such powerful and voluntary aid there was now nothing to fear, but every thing to hope. The chief, to my utter surprize, concluded an animated harangue, by proposing the health of his "highly valued friend General DEVEREUX, and the Officers and Soldiers of the Irish Legion." Words are inadequate to do justice to the excess of my feelings ; to me they were overpowering ; I felt that unmerited obloquy had been thrown upon the character of the General, and that however ill arranged some of his plans may have been, he had made no promises that

would not have been fulfilled, nor held out inducements that would not be recognized, and to the fullest extent ratified, by the Columbian Government. I was now in the presence of the supreme Chief, and an immense number of his Officers ;— the only Officer of the Irish Legion which, with its General, had been so handsomely noticed by the supreme Chief ; I briefly returned thanks, though from the state of my health I was wholly unfitted for giving utterance to any thing like what I knew the handsome compliment demanded. Similar appropriate toasts were proposed and drank, but as they fall not within the sphere of my present work, I pass them over unnoticed.

The Ball-Rooms, which in the course of the evening, were thrown open, were large and spacious ; splendidly laid out, and decorated with festoons of laurels and evergreens ; and ornamented with transparencies, emblematic of the occasion. The Spanish Ladies were extremely interesting in their appearance ; their dresses were rich though fantastically gay : their eyes and hair are generally dark, the former brilliant and sparkling. The gracefulness of their figures was admirably displayed, as they went through the figures of the waltz, and surpassed any thing I had ever seen ; I could not but regret that my state of health incapacitated me from being a partaker, I was therefore obliged to submit to be a silent spectator of the fascinating scene.

BOLIVAR was the most accomplished dancer of the party, and waltzed the greater part of the evening with an elegant and sprightly girl, the niece of General SOUBLETT. His address on the occasion was more than usually prepossessing, and, in the full spirit of the dance, he seemed to forget the turbulence of his life of warfare, and think but of the happiness, which this display of animated gaiety presented.

Fruits, sweet-meats, and sangaree, a drink somewhat similar to negus, with wines of the most costly kinds were handed about, during the dance; about three o'clock, supper was announced, and served up with an equal degree of sumptuousness as the dinner had been; in fact nothing could exceed the style in which the whole thing was got up, as *South America* alone was not ransacked for materials, but the *West-Indies* and even *England* contributed their several shares in the dainties which ornamented the festive board; and the wines, &c. were superior in quality. After spending the night with the utmost harmony and festivity, the company separated about day-break.

The following morning, I breakfasted, by invitation, with GENERAL MARINO, who received me most affectionately; he regretted much the fate of my late companion, and congratulated me upon the improvement in my own health. He promised me every assistance in his power in furthering the progress of my business regarding, Colonel MEADE,

MARINO is the second chief in the republic ; he was Vice President of the congress, but owing to a dispute with the Supreme Chief, he was removed from the situation, and in his stead DON ANTONIO ZEA was appointed,—a man of powerful abilities, and and who had zealously exerted himself in the promotion of the independence. He had also, on a former occasion, been removed from the command of the armies of the east ; at a time when ARISMENDI was brought a prisoner to *Angustura*, charged with wishing to depose ADMIRAL BRION from the command of the fleet, and appointing to that situation his own brother-in-law, COMMODORE JOLLY.

ARISMENDI was awaiting his sentence in a dungeon when the dreadful news arrived, that the Spaniards were on their march towards the capital, with an immense army. Every thing was in confusion, and the army without a leader ; and such the fame of the imprisoned general that the call for his liberation, and appointment to the command was universal. The Spaniards, aware of the preparations making for their reception, adopted the more prudential plan of a timely retreat.

Of all the native commanders I had yet seen MARINO was, in appearance, the most prepossessing. His open good-natured countenance, approaches in general outline to the English, and unlike the rest of his brother officers, it is unadorned with mustachios ; he is undaunted in courage, and enters not into the spirit of cold-blooded butchery, which is so generally exercised towards all prisoners.

He seems not more than thirty years of age and is deservedly a favourite with the officers of the British Legion ; perhaps not less on account of the excellence of his mess, than his general deportment. His mess indeed, is the most superb of any, as he is a good deal of an epicure, and is never unattended by regular French cooks ; in this respect he differs much from BOLIVAR, who cares not what he eats, and dislikes the trouble attendant on regular feastings ; he, in fact, in some degree, prides himself in sharing the fare of the common soldier, who has, as a soldier participated in his dangers and difficulties. MARINO was a strict disciplinarian, and stood higher as a military commander than any of the other generals ; he was beloved by his soldiers to a degree bordering on veneration ; this was manifested most amply at the time when he was removed from the command of the armies—some hundred of his men laying down their arms and returning to their homes.

Upon my return from this visit, a long conversation in which Captain PHELAN and I reviewed former scenes in our native land, was interrupted by the entrance of a stranger, and in a moment my host was in the arms of Colonel PIGOTT, a friend to whom he was long attached, and whom he lamented as the victim of Spanish cruelty. This gentleman had the command, in several campaigns, of the regiment in which PHELAN had a company ; and was extremely beloved by all of those under his command ; he was, says my friend, “ the rigid



commander, on parade, and in the field, but duty once over, he was the brother, the friend, the companion of his officers, and the father of his soldiers." His health having suffered during the late campaign, he sought and obtained leave of absence, and was on his way to one of the *West India* Islands when he was taken prisoner by the crew of a Spanish Fletcher, and carried to the *Mainé*. He was forced to march on foot to *Cumana*, upwards of 400 miles, enduring every privation and suffering of which human nature was capable. Fortunately for him, upon the first attack of the Fletcher he took the precaution of throwing overboard his regimental commission, and every article that could possibly lead to a knowledge of his having served in the Patriot army; a crime for which he would have forfeited his head; retaining in his possession his commission as a Captain in the British service, with the three years leave of absence which he had obtained previous to his leaving *England*, for *South America*. On his trial he claimed protection as a British officer, and as no proof could be advanced, that he had joined the Independents, he was liberated and provided with a passage to *St. Thomas's* from whence he now arrived at head quarters.

Captain PHILAN received him as one risen from the grave; the news of his capture had no sooner arrived at *Angustura* than all hopes of survival were at an end—no circumstances weighing with the Spaniards to extend mercy to any who had

borne arms in the revolutionary war. His unexpected arrival was hailed with joy by all who formerly had the pleasure of his acquaintance ; but by none more than PHELAN, who prevailed on him to remain at his house, until an opportunity offered for both joining the army.

The following morning I waited on General ARISMENDI, with the letters of introduction I had been furnished with for him, from my friends in *Trinidad* ; and could not complain of my reception, though his natural manners incapacitated him from exhibiting those feelings or appearances, of cordiality, with which I was greeted by *Marino*. The General was remarkably polite, and very particular in his inquiries concerning Colonel *Meade* ; he expressed his sorrow that his influence with the Congress was at present so weak, but promised to apply on my behalf to the Chief himself. Altogether I was pleased with my visit, though it was impossible for me to divest myself of the feeling that I was in the company of *Arismendi*, whose deeds of blood I had heard related by *ROMANO* in *Margaritta*, and the plans of whose vengeance towards the Spaniards, all the torrents of blood he had shed was insufficient to quench. His personal appearance is unprepossessing, his figure small and short, but his action quick and lively ; his utterance is rapid, and he receives his ideas with as much rapidity as they are communicated. His face is acute and every feature in it bears strong testimony to the life he has led, the scenes of blood-

shed in which he has been engaged, and his determination to persevere in his plan of Spanish extermination, until his country is wholly free, and released from the slavish dominion of FERDINAND.

ARISMENDI is Governor of *Margaritta*, and has exercised his rights of office with such effect against the enemies of his country's independence, that his island has been denominated a "slaughter-house," and its governor "the general butcher." Such being the universal feeling, it is unnecessary for me to add another syllable.

Through the extreme kindness and attention of Mrs. PHELAN and her worthy husband, I was fast recovering from my serious illness, though still unable, without assistance, to walk one hundred yards. I was therefore determined to urge for an answer to the dispatches of Colonel MEADE, with which I had encountered so many difficulties, and which the Signor CARDOZA had laid before the Congress, exerting not only his influence but his interest, in promoting the wishes therein expressed. I was strongly advised, by my host, to apply in person to the Supreme Chief, who was at all times anxious to dispense justice, and particularly partial to the British. In consonance with this suggestion I took my place, the following day, with ten or twelve other officers in the apartment adjoining the audience hall. After an hour's impatient waiting, BOLIVAR passed us with a hurried step, accompanied by his Aid-de-camp and an interpreter. A few minutes after, the interpreter returned, and

asked me if I had business with his Excellency ; having answered in the affirmative, he desired me to follow him, and in an instant I again found myself in the presence of the Chief.

His Aide-de-camp had retired, and he was alone, seated on a sofa at the extremity of the room ; his dress was a plain blue English surtout, white pantaloons, and hussar boots. When entering I saluted him, which he graciously returned, and beckoned me to seat myself upon the sofa on which he was seated ; seeing me hesitate, he again pointed with his finger to the sofa, on which I immediately seated myself. I briefly sketched the business upon which I came to *Angustura* ; mentioned the circumstances under which Colonel MEADE had retired from *Margaritta*, and the disappointments many had experienced from the non-fulfilment of promises made to them in *Ireland* by General DEVEREUX. With the circumstances of the treatment the Colonel had undergone, he said he was perfectly acquainted, and that every thing should be done to make amends ; desired me to apply to the Secretary of the Congress upon the ensuing day, and that he would furnish me with letters with which I was to return to *Trinidad* to Colonel MEADE, and upon the complete restoration of my health I was ordered to return and join my legion, or if I thought it more prudent, I was at liberty to join the staff of General ARISMENDI, an offer before made me through Colonel Low. General DEVEREUX he esteemed most highly, and expressed

his surprise at the defection that had taken place among such of his troops as had landed at *Margaritta*. He informed me that upon my return from the mission in which I was going, my commission should be made out, confirming the rank conferred on me by Colonel MEADE; and that he looked with hope for the arrival of the rest of the Irish Legion.

When I spoke of the privations of the Legion at *Margaritta*, of my own sufferings, and the fate of my friend JAMIESON, he sat, apparently absorbed in thought, with his eyes fixed upon the ground.— Suddenly starting from this position, he briefly said, “ comforts in a situation like ours, are impossible—is there any thing farther that I can now do for you ? ” — “ your Excellency ” said I, “ has ordered me to *Trinidad*, and I am without means ” — “ the Government ” said he, evidently mistaking the purport of my application, “ cannot comply with the private demands of any Officer of the Irish Legion, until the agreements entered into with them by General DEVEREUX are fully made known. ” — “ Your Excellency misunderstands me ; all I require is a moiety of the pay which is now due me, sufficient to defray my expenses to, and from *Trinidad*. ” “ How much will suffice ? ” “ Whatever your Excellency may think proper ” — “ No, no, ” said he, “ name a sum. ” — I immediately replied — “ Fifty dollars : ” — he, with a hurried motion, drew from his waistcoat threw doubloons, and placed

them in my hands, when I bowed and retired.— Three doubloons are equal in value to sixty dollars, a sum which, from the late scarcity, I almost considered as inexhaustible. Gratified by the result of my visit I returned to my quarters, to acquaint my friend with the fruits of my interview, and make preparations for my departure from *Angustura*.

I waited, according to my directions, upon the Secretary of the Congress, and received the dispatches. I now seriously began to get myself in readiness ; and upon inquiry, found that a schooner had been lying in the river, and would sail for *Trinidad* the day following ; in this vessel I took my passage.

Lieutenant MARTIN, hearing of my intended departure called on me, and grasping me by the hand, wished to know what it was in his power to do for me, as he still had my coat, and having worn it so long he could not think of returning it. I upbraided him with having so mean an opinion of me, as, after all his kindness, to think of a thing of such trifling import. “ No, no,” said he, “ You can as ill bear the loss of a coat as myself,” saying which, he ran off, and I did not again see him for two hours, when he returned mounted upon a noble horse. “ Here” said he, “ I was determined not to remain in your debt, and hope you will accept this animal, which, through Signor CARDOZA, I have obtained from a Spanish Colonel.” I refused, stating that it would now be of little use to me, so near my starting for the *West Indies* ; but he would

hear of no refusal, saying, that he would bring me one hundred dollars in *Trinidad*. He told me he had received an order from BOLIVAR to take the command of some troops up the river, which would be of advantage to him. I congratulated him upon the event, and bade him adieu. Poor MARTIN! I have since often thought of him; with all his failings and peculiarities, he had an honest heart, and thought no exertion or trouble thrown away that could add to the happiness or comfort of a friend.

The morning of departure arrived, I waited on DON ANTONIO ZEA, the Vice President of the Congress, for my passport. He was kind and polite, gave me my passport, and shaking me warmly by the hand, wished me a safe voyage, a speedy recovery of my health, and hoped soon to see me return to my post, well and happy. Upon this occasion, Colonel Low, acted as interpreter, an officer whom, in military knowledge, and soldierly appearance, the cause has no equal; he is universally beloved, and the friend of all.

I had now only to part with those dear friends to whom I was indebted for my life, and never can I forget their kindness; a stranger, friendless, and labouring under the accumulating miseries of sickness and poverty, I was taken under their hospitable roof, and treated more as a brother, or a son, than one whose only claim was his distressing situation. To speak what I felt as I embraced and bade farewell to Mrs. PHELAN is im-

possible ; her tears spoke her regret, as I took the arm of her husband and walked towards the beach. As we proceeded, I, for the first time saw an Irish officer who had been confined since his arrival in *Angustura*, with fever, and who was now beginning to crawl about. He congratulated me upon the accomplishment of my business, and wished me a prosperous voyage: I afterwards saw this gentleman at *Trinidad*, as I shall afterwards mention.

The boat was in waiting to convey me on board the schooner ; I looked upon Captain PHELAN—the preserver of my life. I had much to say, but the fulness of my heart choked my utterance. I stretched out my hand, which he seized ; a tear glistened in his eye, as, after the manner of the country, he caught me in his arms, and, with a hurried “God bless you” we parted. I hastened to the boat, and as I turned to give him a last adieu, his benevolent countenance was bathed in the tears of affection. As our boat receded from the shore, he stood gazing on us with “a long lingering look ;” I kissed my hand, he returned my salute, and I soon lost sight of my benefactor ; a man who is an honour to the land that gave him birth, and whose universal demeanor have made him a deserved favourite with all who are honored with his acquaintance.

I now bade adieu to *Angustura*, a city, into which I had entered fatigued and hungry, and to which, throughout an arduous journey, I had



looked forward as the termination of all my sufferings, and where all the hopes in which I had indulged were to be realized. I had met with friends, and had been treated with kindness ; the commission I had received from General DEVEREUX in *Ireland*, and the rank conferred on me by Colonel MEADE, had both been recognized, by the proper authorities, and by their orders I was again embarked a solitary wanderer.

*Angustura*, the seat of the Government of the Columbian republic, is seated upon the banks of the *Orinoco*, and was formerly called *St. Thomas's*. It is built on a rising ground, and, as it recedes from the river, and ascends, presents a long, well-built, but irregular street, nearly an English mile in length, intersected by cross streets, all verging towards the apex of the hill ; and as it descends in a northerly direction, terminates in a low marsh, exceedingly unhealthy, engendering disease, and of uncommon fatality to Europeans. The houses are either one or two stories in height, principally built with straw and lime, and roofed with tile ; the apartments are large and lofty, well lighted by numerous windows, which in that country are absolutely necessary for the free transmission of air ; instead of panes of glass, the inhabitants use a sort of Cane blinds through which the air passes freely. The public buildings most worthy of note are, a large chapel, superior in structure to any other building in the city ;—the barracks, which are extensive and roomy, but

destitute of every species of accommodation, to which European soldiers are accustomed ;—a wretched prison, into which the light of day seldom enters ;—a Calabososa, or prison in which persons accused of minor offences are immured, and rather more comfortable than that before-mentioned,—and the Congress hall, which is built in the square near the summit of the hill, and is tolerably commodious, quite sufficient to accommodate the twenty-four senators, whose deliberations are about to be recognized by the older nations, and whose laws, from the specimens already given, are creditable to themselves, and formed to promote the happiness of those for whose use they are enacted. Besides these, there are some excellent houses, the residences of the principal officers and merchants ; an excellent tavern ; billiard and hazard tables, of which the Spanish and French merchants are very fond, and not unfrequently indulge to excess.

The trade of *Angustura*, is carried on by a mixture of Spanish, French, and British merchants, but at the time of my visit, the business of the merchant had given place to the more fierce trade of the soldier, and the rumbling of cannon usurped the place of the cart of the dealer. Money was in plentiful circulation, and the English merchants lived in a style of luxuriant splendour, in a great measure unknown to those of their native country.

The whole city is surrounded with a deep broad moate, which upon the first manifestation of the

revolutionary spirit, was made by the Spaniards ; and a large tower is erected upon a commanding eminence on the banks of the river, in front of the town, strongly mounted with cannon. There are also cannon placed in the squares, and at the terminations of the several streets, which, from the situation of the city, makes it a place of considerable strength, and gives it a full command over any shipping in the *Orinoco*.

The supreme Chief, for the most part, resides in the house of his bosom friend and confidant, Mr. HAMILTON ; an Irishman, who, from the services he has rendered to the state, and the abilities and knowledge, which, upon every occasion connected with its weal, he displays, has raised himself from the mercantile situation in which he first visited *Angustura*, to a rank in the Columbian Government little inferior, in the extent of its duties and its cares, to the situation of BOLIVAR himself. He is a general favorite, and such the known integrity of his character, that there is no proceeding of moment in the state, in which he is not consulted. I regretted exceedingly that his absence from home precluded the possibility of my delivering letters of introduction with which I was favoured to this respected and highly talented individual.

The sails of the Schooner were set, the wind was fair, and we rapidly lost sight of *Angustura*, and silently floated on the bosom of the *Orinoco*. The heat of the weather was excessive, and my weakness so great that I was unable to stay much upon

deck, or enjoy the delightful scenery which clothed the banks of this majestic river ; it was, therefore, only occasionally that I feasted my eyes with nature's beauties, admired the gambols of the finny tribe as they sported on the waters, or view the lifeless trunk of the Alligator as it lay asleep on the shore, or floated upon the surface, like the branch of a tree. We came to, at several forts, in our descent, where our vessel underwent a strict examination, and at each place I was obliged to produce my passport ; at one of them near the mouth of the river, we landed our pilot. As we approached the bar, it blew a gale, the sea was high, and for some hours we were in imminent danger, being in shoal water not more than three fathoms in depth. The Captain was much alarmed but kept his fears a secret from me until the danger was past.

Nothing particular occurred until we were within a short distance of *Trinidad*, when one morning we found ourselves within gun shot of a Fletcher which hoisted Spanish colours, and fired a shot right across our bows ; this we returned by a discharge of four musquets, the only arms we had on board. Our bark would have been an easy prey, but the enemy seemed cautious, probably upon seeing our English colours, and the nearness to a British island, they waited for the approach of night, when with certainty they might seize their prize. We bore away before them, and as night gathered around, it became squally, and the sea ran high. Random shots followed us, but without

taking any effect, and as day dawned we found ourselves within a mile of *Port au Spain*, beyond the possible reach of the enemy.

About ten o'clock in the morning we anchored in the harbour. My spirits were light, and I thought of the joy with which Colonel MEADE would greet my arrival; after having accomplished his business, regardless of difficulty and suffering, I returned to place in his hands documents from the congress, expressive of their disapprobation of the manner in which he had been treated at *Margarita*, and recognizing all the authority with which he, and the Officers under his command, had been invested by General DEVERAUX. I hastened on shore, and lost no time in going to the house of Mr. WHIRLING, the merchant, where he resided; but judge my surprize and disappointment on hearing that he had sailed for *England* some time previous to my landing.

Place yourself in my situation, reader! and you will have some idea of my present feelings. I arrived at *Trinidad* from *Margarita* almost naked and pennyless. I landed upon the *Maine* from an open boat; Captain JAMIESON and I had travelled on foot to *Maturin* enduring every privation and degree of suffering, which hunger, fatigue, and incessant rains, dread of the ferocious jaws of the Tiger, &c. &c. could inflict upon us; we had traversed the wild plains of the *Llanos* for nearly a fortnight, exposed to fatigue and danger, and in a most deplorable condition arrived at our

destination, where my companion had fallen a victim to the exertions he had made, and the sufferings he had endured ; and where I, in the midst of sickness, had fought the battles of the Colonel, and having accomplished the objects of my hazardous journey, I returned to meet him at *Trinidad*. I was now a solitary stranger, deserted by him in whose service I was employed, without friends, without the means of returning to *Angustura*, without the means of returning to my native country, and with the loss of my health, which to me was of the greatest consequence. It is but justice to Colonel MEADE to state that very soon after my companion and I had sailed from the island, a report was in circulation in *Port au Spain*, and universally credited, that we had both been taken prisoners by the Spaniards, and as a matter of course, suffered the punishment consequent upon our attachment to the independant cause. Conceiving, under these circumstances, his case hopeless, he had returned to *England*. When I afterwards met him in *Dublin*, nothing could exceed his surprize at finding I was still in the land of the living.

Disconsolate, I wandered I scarcely knew whither, and after a couple of hours rambling, I found myself opposite to the house of Doctor O'CONNOR by whom I had been furnished with letters of introduction when going upon the *Maine*. I entered and as he shook me warmly by the hand, joy sat upon his countenance ; he ordered refresh-

ments, after which he made me relate my adventures. He seemed to participate in my feelings, as I told him what I had suffered, and the solitary, desolate situation to which I was now reduced ; inquired what were my intentions for the future.— With these it was impossible to make him acquainted, as I was still in ignorance of what course I should pursue. I had now found a friend, but my future prospects were still a mystery even to myself.

The kindness of Doctor O'CONNOR to me was beyond any thing I could have hoped for or expect ; and as the recovery of my health was what, for the moment he seemed most interested in, he furnished me with medicine, and no comfort that his house could afford, nor delicacy that the island could furnish, was wanting to accomplish the desired object. The heart of the Doctor was truly Irish, and the instances of ingratitude he had met with, had but little effect in restraining the overflow of affection manifested to his countrymen. Many of those disconsolate youths who had landed from *Marguaritta* at *Trinidad*, having told their " tale of woe " were relieved by his benevolence ; and some whose parents had been previously known to him, when pursuing his studies in *Dublin*, were not only taken into his house, and partook of all the dainties of his exhilarating board, but, upon their own personal securities, or drafts upon their friends in Ireland, were either furnished with money to pay their passage homewards, or he passed his word to the Cap-

tain, which was a sufficient security. And how was this interested goodness repaid ? With ingratitude ! Like the morning's dream it vanished from the memory without leaving an impression ; and Doctor O'CONNOR, has paid sums of money for some of those *heroes*, who are now rioting in plenty, forgetful of the situation from which his charity had preserved them.

Under the care of this philanthropist I found Mr. LEAVE, the young officer whom I had parted from at *Maturin*, under such wretched circumstances.—His worn-out emaciated form was gradually becoming more tense, and he could now walk about and praise the bounty of his host, for which he was indebted for his returning vigour.

In *Trinidad*, I first heard of the unfortunate death of my youthful friend Cornet ROBERT ECCLES. The constitution of this amiable young man was not framed in the strongest mould ; he was removed from the enjoyments of those comforts and attentions, to which, in early life, he was accustomed, and after undergoing the hardships of the island of *Margaritta*, he sunk under the load of want and disease, and his body was committed to the deep on the passage from that to JAMAICA.

A visible improvement was every day taking place in my health, and I began to look forward with considerable anxiety to the future. I was uncommonly desirous to return to *Angustura*, upon a favourable change taken place in my health, and restore the dispatches, relating my disappointment,



and the departure of Colonel MEADE to England. This my friends strenuously opposed, and urged my return to *Britain*, and by laying my dispatches before the Colonel, disabuse not only his, but the public mind as to the reality of those powers granted to General DEVEREUX, and give the lie to the foul calumnies, which had already found their way into the public journals. I was not prepared to combat the prudence which this plan suggested, nor without a hope that Colonel MEADE would again return to the West, and serve in that cause, in which he had already expended so much money.

A difficulty still presented itself to the accomplishment of this end, on which my mind was now fully made up; the money with which I had been provided by BOLIVAR was expended, in defraying some trifling debts contracted in *Angustura*; in paying my passage, and furnishing stores for the voyage to *Trinidad*; and in some little extra expenses incurred during my residence at the house of Doctor O'CONNOR; in fact, I was penniless — To make application to the Governor, and claim protection, as a British subject, was, I was told, wholly useless; as I had forfeited all right to that protection by engaging a second time in a cause which I had previously, but partially, abandoned. The kindness of my host was still unchanged, he proffered to advance money to take me home; an offer which my feelings would not allow me to accept, as I had already trespassed but too far on his humane liberality. The merchants of *Port au*

*Spain*, on my forlorn condition being represented to them, and my resolution, at once put an end to my difficulties, by providing me with funds to make my return not only possible, but comfortable.

Among the most active of my friends, who were so zealous in promoting the views of Mr. LEAVE and myself, were Mr. SAUNDERSON, one of the principal law authorities in the island, Mr. WHITE, the South American Consul, the Collectors, &c. &c.

Thus furnished with the means, I was daily on the look out for a vessel, and in a few days heard of one about to sail for *Bristol*. As I was one morning proceeding towards the wharf to secure my passage, I encountered a gentleman whose features I thought I recollected, and who gazed earnestly upon me; it was Mr. DUNLAP, with whom I had parted on the morning of my leaving *Angustura*, but how changed in his appearance; his pallid face had vanished, and ruddy health sat upon every feature, and his weak enfeebled limbs were now strong and muscular. I congratulated him upon the favourable change, and inquired for the friends I had parted with. They were well, and the only changes that had taken place were in the quarters of Colonel PIGOTT, and Captain PHILAN who had gone up the river to join the army.

As we walked, arm in arm, towards the vessel, he informed me that he was from the North of *Ireland*, near the *Giant's Causeway*, and wished upon my return that I would wait upon his friends, who

had not heard of him since he left them, and inform them of his present situation ; a promise which I made, and have since faithfully fulfilled. From that morning to the day of my departure we were inseparable, and a more worthy or more honest fellow I have never met.

It is unnecessary for me to enter into any further details ; a few days saw Mr. LEAVE and myself on board the *Assiduous*, Captain JENKINS, bound for England. We bade adieu to our friends and sailed ; our passage was rough and the weather squally, but throughout we were treated with the utmost kindness by the Captain and crew ; and after a passage of six weeks, landed at *Bristol* on the 11th of May 1820.

## CONCLUSION.



MY landing in Bristol terminated all my cares, my fatigues, my privations, anxieties, and sufferings—and with their termination ended my Journal, which, I take it for granted, the reader has already perused. Mine is no work of fiction,—no story thrown together as a mere matter of book-making—no selfish or partial tale, entered upon for the purposes of servile flattery, or as a medium for the circulation of personal abuse or calumny ; it is “ a plain unvarnished tale ;” a candid statement of those things to which I have been a witness, and of which I have spoken faithfully, without taking the slightest advantage of the privilege of travellers. I have already stated, that I am not interested in any allusion I have made, with or

against, any individual or body of men ; I am not the advocate of General DEVEREUX, nor the *calumniator* of those who have been most forward in calling in question, not only the manner in which they conceived themselves deceived, but *in toto* denying his power to raise a Legion in Ireland.—Of them I shall only say that *they have been deceived*, not by General DEVEREUX, but by themselves ; they having returned without any possible means of ascertaining the extent of his authority, many of them returning in the same vessels in which they sailed, after a visit of *a few hours*, to the “inhospitable” shores of *Margaritta* ; and of the other—that his arrangements were injudicious ; perhaps a stronger term might be applicable. There was certainly an unaccountable degree of blindness, stupidity, or ignorance on the part of the General, in granting the command to some whose days passed over in idleness and debauchery, and whose nights were spent in drunkenness or the infatuations of the hazard table.

This, however, is a question which it is not for me to discuss. It is not for me to know any thing of the private character of General DEVEREUX, nor of his talents to carry into full operation the task which he undertook, although Mr. O'CONNELL has placed it on record, that he “never knew a man better suited to such circumstances, than General DEVEREUX ;” it is sufficient for *me to know*, that his powers were not fictitious or assumed, but authorized by BOLIVAR, and that the commissions of such

of the officers as really joined the standard of South America independence were fully recognised and acknowledged. This is a fact of which I am myself an example, and I now—" an unbought man that returns ;" assert, fearless of contradiction, that **DEVEREUX** was the person whom he represented himself to be, and undeserving the *bitter* language made use of, in a pamphlet, by a squad of those who returned dispirited, without the *possibility* of their being able to form any opinion upon the real merits of the case.

" We sought glory" said those *heroes*, " and " what did we find ? That a gang of sacrilegious " impostors, had profaned the sacred names of God " and Liberty, to swindle their fellow-countrymen. " We found no reception nor compassion from " those we went to risk our lives and spill our " blood for—instead of battles and martial privations—we found nothing before us but contempt, " starvation, and the ignoble death of vagabonds " and paupers !!!" This is a heavy charge truly, but how is it substantiated, and by whom ? Of those who enrolled themselves in the cause of freedom under General **DEVEREUX**, there are two parties—the one keeping steadfastly in view, the object for which they deserted their country and their friends, made good their way to *Rio de la Hache*, where some found repose " on the bed of the soldier," others are still with the victorious army, and have gained for themselves honour and reward, while a few have returned, preferring the quiet of

their peaceful homes, to what they considered the uncertain event of a dangerous and harassing warfare; the other, and by far the more numerous party, returned, many of them having *never landed* at *Margaritta*; others, after a few hours, or at most a few days residence, not meeting with those comforts and accommodations, which their sanguine anticipations had led them to expect, return in the same vessels in which they had gone out, or by the longer route of the *West Indies*; and these are they who asperse General DEVEREUX, deny the existence of those powers by which they "were seduced," and denounce him and his friends with the horrible epithet "a gang of sacrilegious impostors!"

When General DEVEREUX first raised the standard of *Venezuela* in Ireland, a vast number of young men rallied around it, eager to share in the glories attached to a bold people attempting to free themselves from the galling yoke of slavish oppression, and by their own powers and internal resources hold a place among the nations. Many of the officers had served in the British Army, but a great number were raw and inexperienced, and mere infants in the art of war; of the private soldiers and non-commissioned officers, by far the greater part were veterans. The officers, particularly such as had never before seen service, *bought* their commissions at a cheap rate, and no expense was spared to give them, in appearance, that respectability which a cause so noble, seemed to re-

quire. How the money so obtained was disbursed, whether it was solely appropriated to the use of the Legion, or squandered in idle extravagance, I know not, nor does it come within my province to inquire; suffice it to say, that the funds of many of the officers, by their residence in Dublin, were gradually diminishing, and the anxiety became general, for a speedy embarkation; which took place in the months of June and July, 1819.

The several transports landed in tolerable condition at *Margaritta*; and here seems to me to have been the grand error in the conduct of Gen. DEVEREUX, whose arrangements for their reception had not been properly made. Had the troops been pushed *at once* up the *Orinoco* and landed at *Angustura*, all the carping of the *refugees* would have been for ever silenced, and the authority of the General never called in question. These are points which cannot now be remedied, but which candour obliges me to notice;—at all events, the greater part of the Irish Legion landed at *Margaritta*, where no preparations were made for them, even Admiral BRION and General ENGLISH, who had the command of the forces by sea and land, were ignorant of this place having been fixed upon as their place of rendezvous, and, of course, were unprepared to receive them, as they expected.

The island of *Margaritta*, although previously chosen as a landing place by General ENGLISH, was among the worst places, in the then posture of affairs, upon which to land troops. Its dry, warm,



unwholesome climate, the bad quality of the water, the scarcity and badness in quality of the provisions, and the great deficiency of huts or buildings to accommodate our soldiers, were soon manifested by the ravages which were made by disease. We were received by a salute of 21 guns, and the Officers in command were kind and attentive, expressing their regret that their not being apprised of our approach, prevented them from having laid in a sufficiency of stores. The troops of General ENGLISH, at least such of them as had been wounded in a late engagement at *Cumana* were brought to *Margaritta*, and though previously recognized by the provisional Government of *South America*, were equally destitute, with us, of those comforts of which we all stood so much in need. But as to the general question of the recognition of the commissions of the Officers of the Irish Legion, even in *Margaritta*, there can be but little doubt; we were received at the tables of those in command as *Officers*; we were furnished with such food and accommodation (however poor it was) as the island afforded; and even one of those, who, upon his return to Ireland, was most active in throwing odium upon the cause, has publicly acknowledged, that "they received us as allies—as such they sanctioned my commission."

At the time of our landing, BOLIVAR was warmly engaged against the enemies of his country at *Santa Fe*, and could not, even by a stretch of imagination, be supposed to know any thing of our arrival; nor of the place at which it was the inten-

tion of General DEVEREUX to make a landing.—  
 “ But why,” say those who returned, “ were not  
 “ proper arrangements made, if DEVEREUX were  
 “ really empowered to raise men, and grant com-  
 missions?” The reply to this question is, in my  
 opinion, extremely simple ; when we contrast the  
 vast differences between a war among civilized na-  
 tions, in an European country, and that on the  
 South American Continent, where the state of abo-  
 riginal slavery gave place to another species, that  
 of the mind, more galling, and which engenders a  
 ferocity of disposition scarcely allied to humanity.  
 In the former, man against man strives for the mas-  
 tery, using no unfair advantage, not deprived of  
 the means of actual existence, inventing no new  
 species of cruelty to torture the unfortunate priso-  
 ner ; all is conducted according to the law of na-  
 tions, in a clime somewhat more congenial to Eu-  
 ropean constitutions ; in the latter, under the heat  
 of a torrid sun, there are no accommodations after  
 the fatigues of a day’s march, or on the termination  
 of a contest ; there is no commissariat department  
 to furnish necessities ; you risk attack from the  
 native troops who are secured within their jungle,  
 and which, clothed in their blankets, defy the ra-  
 vages of clime ; the risk of falling into the hands of  
 an enemy, whose victim you become ; all combined  
 make the *Venezuelian* warfare one of the utmost  
 severity, and to which no European could lend  
 himself, whose mind was not perfectly made up to  
 undergo every species of fatigue and privation of  
 which human nature was capable. I say when

these and the uncertainty of the movements in an intestine war are taken into consideration, the answer to the above question seems plain and easy. It could not be possible, that BOLIVAR could arrange the actual destination of the Irish Legion with General DEVEREUX, as from the uncertainty of the regimental movements, he could not be supposed to know what places would be actually in his possession, and whether, upon the landing of fresh resources, they might not fall into the hands of the enemy; Colonel HIPPLESLAY and General ENGLISH had each met with a hostile reception on their arrival in the West India islands; *Angustura* had been taken and re-taken; *Margaritta* was several times, *alternately*, in the hands of the independents and of the blood-thirsty MORILLO, and even upon the day previous to the arrival of the *Hannah*, in which I was a passenger, a Spanish fleet had taken its departure from the bay of *Juan Griego*. These points are to me, perfectly sufficient as to the view which General DEVEREUX took of the question; and as to his rectitude of intention according to the best of his knowledge, I have no doubts. One question to those who returned, previous to closing my subject; were they not supplied in *Margaritta*, with a supply of such articles as were upon the island, and to as great an extent as most of those native and foreign officers who had been long in the service? In fine, the troops which left *Ireland* in 1819, for *South America*, and which landed at *Margaritta*, were, though not expected, treated with as much kindness as they, from the nature of things, could possibly expect.

At that time the independence of *South America* was but partially achieved ; the glorious struggle may now be said to be completed ; with the exception of one or two places, the proclamation of freedom has been general. General DEVEREUX stands high in the estimation of BOLIVAR, the Supreme Chief, of whom it has been said, " That he ranks with the WASHINGTONS and KOSCIUSKOS of the world ; the eternal laurel of patriotic triumph wreaths his brow, and his glory shines as another burning light, to illumine and to warm through the chilly gloom, which the Holy Alliance is spreading so fast and so thick over the Nations of Europe."—The gloomy anticipations which disappointed ambition wrung from Colonel HIPPESLY, are buried in oblivion ; the petty carpings of the heroes who by their desertion of, and subsequent abuse of the cause, are for ever silenced ; and the brows of such as persevered in the glorious career are enshrined with honour.

A recent struggle on the European continent ; the apparent determination on the part of *Spain* and *France* to attempt the re-subjugation of the South American provinces, and the subsequent determination which England assumes to prevent a free people from being again encircled in the bonds of slavery, have created an interest for these people in the minds of a British public that cannot be surpassed, and that can be only allayed by the *final and complete* establishment of *South American* independence.





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